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D A V I D E I S.

THE

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L I F E
O F

DAVID

KING of *Israel*:

A

SACRED POEM:

In Five BOOKS.

By THOMAS ELLWOOD,

K.

Scribimus Indocti Doctique Poemata — Horat.

L O N D O N:

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NISVM

SACRED BOOKS

GOÓWALI ZAMONI

TO THE
READER.

WHEN first I began the following Poem, I was so far from thinking of the Press; that I aimed no farther than to describe, and that for my own Diversions only, The Monomachie, or Single Combat, between the Giant and the Stripling, great Goliah and little David.

After I had, in such Sort as it is, performed that, I was drawn on, insensibly as it were, to set forth the Noble Friendship, which, upon the great Atchivement of David's, was

To the Reader.

contracted between Prince Jonathan and Him: with the Effects of both, the Advancement of David to Places of Honour, Trust and Power, and his brave discharge thereof, in the Service of his King and Country. Which, as it gained him the great Love of the People, so it procur'd him the high Displeasure of the King: and, as Consequent thereof, the Troubles he afterwards went through.

Having attended him so far in his Prosperity and Greatness, I could not find in my Heart, methought, to leave him in his Adversity and de-pressed State: but accompanying him through his Sufferings under Saul, I waited on him, till I had seen him fairly settled on the Throne of Israel.

There

To the Reader.

v

There again I made a Stand, as willing to have made that the Bound of my Undertaking. But after I had paus'd awhile, look'd back, and view'd the Steps I had taken; observ'd from what a low Beginning, through what extream Difficulties and Hardships, to what a towring Pitch of Height and Glory our Hero was advanced: and considered also, how soon this Great and Mighty Monarch, this Excellent Man, through a fuddain Temptation of Lust, excited by the alluring Bait of Beauty, fell into those gross and hainous Sins of Adultery and Murther; I could not forbear to display that Part of his Life also, as foreseeing there might some useful Remarks be made thereon, which might be of Service

To the Reader.

to caution others. Wherefore, running hastily over the former Part of his Reign, and but lightly touching, in a general way, his Wars and Martial Enterprizes; I entred, as directly as I well could, upon the foul Story of fair BATH-SHEBA: and, as consequent thereof, the contrived Death of her abused Husband, the brave and valiant U R I A H. Which, with the better Account of David's eminent Sorrow for it, Repentance of it, Recovery from it, and Restoration to the Favour of God again, closes the Third Book.

There, indeed, I was forc'd to make another Stop; which I thought would have proved a full Stop: for it lasted more than Twenty Years. The Poem

Poem was begun, and so far carried on (Excepting only the First Chapter of the First Book) in the Year 1688. When The Prince of Orange landing, and the Nation being in Arms; the Noise of Guns, and Sounds of Drums and Trumpets so affrighted, and disturbed my peaceful Muse, that both She, for a while, forsook me, and I thereupon the Work. Save that, upon a Review, some time after, observing how abruptly David was brought in: that he might not look like one of the Knights Errand of Old, rushing into a Fray with his Beavor down, that none could know either who he was, or whence he came, I added the First Chapter; thereby beginning the Story a little higher,

To the Reader.

higher, that I might introduce my Hero with somewhat the more Advantage.

There it rested, without any Prospect of its ever going further, until the last Winter. When, having less Health, and more Leisure, than at some times before; I took it up, for an Entertainment, to make some uneasy Hours pass somewhat less uneasily over. And after I had read it through, considering with my self, that if, after my Death, being found amongst my loose Papers, it should be committed to the Press; it could pass for, at best but an imperfect, or unfinish'd Piece: I found an Inclination of Mind, to carry on the Story, if I could, to the End of David's

To the Reader.

ix

David's Life. Wherefore giving a kind Invitation to my gentle Muse to return (who, by some short Visits, on particular Occasions, in the Interval, had given me some Ground to hope, she had not quite abandoned me) I entred again upon the Subject, where I had left off ; and by Degrees went through it, till I had brought my warlike Hero to his peaceful Grave.

After it was finished, deliberating about the Publishing of it ; as whether to Publish it my self, or leave it, as a Posthume, to be published (if thought fit) by some kind Hand, after my Death : the Reasons, which turn'd the Ballance for present Printing were ; First, that, at present the Press is open : which possibly may here-

To the Reader.

hereafter be shut. And Secondly,
That if, upon the Publication of it,
MOMUS should Carp (which he is
but too apt to do, even where there is
less Occasion for it) I might be at hand,
ready my self to Answer his Cavils;
who, if any Cause be given for them,
gave it: though assuredly without any
Intention so to do.

Till I had wholly finished, and
transcribed also, this Poem; I had
not had the Opportunity of perusing the
Learned COWLEY's DAVIDES;
though I had heard of it, and, I think,
had once a transient Sight of it, before
I began this. Since I have read it
through, with my best Attention;
and am very well pleas'd, that I had
not read it before: lest his great
Name,

Name, high Stile, and lofty Fancy
should have led me, though unawares,
into an apish Imitation of them;
which doubtless would have look'd
very odly, and ill in me, how admirable
soever in him.

His Aim and mine differ widely:
the Method of each no less. He wrote
for the Learned; and those too of the
Upper Form: and his Flights are
answerable. I write for common
Readers; in a Stile familiar, and
easie to be understood by such. His
would have needed (if he had not ad-
ded it) a large Paraphrase upon it; to
Explain the many difficult Passages
in it. Mine, as it has none, will not,
I hope, need any.

I have

I have the same Aim in this, the same Inducement to it, as I had in writing the Sacred History of both the Old and the New Testament, viz. To invite, and endeavour to draw all, the Youth especially, of either Sex, to improve their Time and Studies; by employing both in reading better Books, written on better Subjects, than too many of them too often do.

I am not so wholly a Stranger to the Writings of the most Celebrated Poets, as well Antient as Modern, as not to know, that the great Embellishments of their Poems consist mostly in their extravagant, and almost boundless Fancies; Amazing, and even Dazeling Flights; Luxurious Inventions; Wild Hyperble's;

ble's; Lofty Language: with an Introduction of Angels, Spirits, Dæmons, and their respective Deities, &c. Which, as not suitable to my Purpose, I industriously abstain from.

In a Word, I am not so vain to seek Applause: I don't expect to be commended. If Critics, on the one hand; and Carpers, on the other, will give me leave to pass the Streets quietly, without Quarrelling, or Jost'ling: 'tis all I ask at their Hands. I don't affect the Title of Poet. Let 'em call me, in that respect, what they please. The Learned, and good Natur'd, will, I hope, be Favourable in their Censures: The Ignorant and Crabbed I regard not.

not. I am more modest, than to expect Admission amongst the best Poets: and yet think it a little below me to be Ranked with the very worst Nec Suffænus sum, nec inscribo Praxitelem. I am content to walk

* In Medio Virtus: if I may be allowed
Medio Tutiſſimus ibis. in the * middle Way
where the safest Walking is, and
where I shall be ſure to find V E R
T U E: than whom I desire no better
Company.

A VIDEIS.

BOOK I.

CHAPTER I.

I Sing the Life of David, Israel's King.

Affist, thou sacred Pow'r, who didst him bring
From the Sheepfold, and set him on the Throne;
Thee I invoke, on Thee Rely alone.

Breath on my Muse; and fill her slender Quill
With thy refreshing Dews from Hermon-Hill:
That what she Sings may turn unto thy Praise,
And to thy Name may lasting Trophies raise.

After King Saul had (by the Sin he wrought
In Amalek) divine Displeasure brought
Upon himself, and so the Lord provok'd
Though his Offense he with Religion cloak'd).

A

That

1 Sam.
15.

^{1 Sam.} That God of his *Promotion* did repent,
^{15.}

And, in *Decree*, the Kingdom from him rent ;
Whilst the good Prophet, on his mournful String,
Bewail'd the *Downfal* of the late made King :
God to him did his sacred Herald call
(*Samuel*, by whom he had Anointed *Saul*,)

^{1 Sam.} And said, How long for *Saul* do'st mean to mourn
^{16.}

Up, quickly fill with sacring Oyl thy Horn.
To Bethlemi~~tish~~ *Jesse* I intend
Thee, on a special Errand strait to send ;
For I, among his Sons, provided have
A King, who shall my People Rule and Save.

Though to the Prophet it was fully known,
That God had *Saul* determin'd to Dethrone,
And raise Another (for himself did bring
From God th' unwelcome Sentence to the King :)
Yet did this dang'rous Errand him surprize ;
And, struck with Fear, How can I go ! the cries
If jealous *Saul* should of the Bus'ness hear,
My Head must pay for mine Offence, I fear.

The Lord, a *gracious Master*, who well knew <sup>1 Sam.
16.</sup>
That the good Prophet's Heart was *right* and *true* ;
And that his *Fear* from *Frailty* did arise,
A fair *Expedient* for him did devise.
Go, go, said he, an *Heifer* with thee take;
And say, I come a *Sacrifice* to make
Unto the Lord : Call *Jesse* thereunto ;
And I will shew thee what thou then shalt do.
Go, without Fear of any, but of me :
And him *Anoint*, whom I shall shew to thee.

Away went *Samuel*. And, to *Bethl' em* come,
Conven'd the Elders of the Place ; on whom
trembling fell, for fear some great Disaster
had fallen out, which thither drew the Master.
Wherefore they ask'd him, If he came *in Peace*.
He answ'ring, Yes : their Fears did quickly cease.
He told them then, He came to hold a Feast
into the Lord (that Love might be encreas'd
among them.) Bid them hast, and sanctifie
themselves, that to the Feast they might draw nigh.

1 Sam. 16. Then unto *Jesse's* House the Prophet went,
Upon his special Errand most intent.
And when, amongst his Sons, he *Eliab* spy'd ;
Strait, This is He, within himself he cry'd.
For *Eliab* was the eldest Son, a tall
Young Man, and fit, he thought, to follow *Saul*.
Therefore he said, Surely, *The Lord's Anointed*
Is now before him : This hath he appointed.

But God thus check'd him. Look not at the Face
Nor outward Stature : but the inward Grace.
Think not that I, as Man, see : Th' outward Part
He looks upon ; but I regard the Heart.
This Check made *Samuel* wary. He no more
Consults his Reason, as he did before.
But when old *Jesse* had before him set
Sev'n of his Sons, all proper Persons ; yet
The Prophet, to his Guide now keeping close,
Told him, The Lord had chosen none of those.

And are here all ? said *Samuel*. No, said he ;
There is one more, the youngest : Cannot we

Go on without him? He my Flocks doth keep: -^{1 Sam.}
_{16.}
And is from Home, at present, with my Sheep.

No, no, said *Samu'el*; send, and fetch him Home:
For we will not sit down until he come.

Strait to the Field a Messenger doth run,
To fetch home *David*, *Jesse's* youngest Son.
Whom, come, he makes before the Prophet stand.
Until he had receiv'd the Lord's Command.
That quickly came. The Lord said, This is he:
Anoint him. *Samuel*, with bended Knee,
Takes up his Horn; and on young *David's* Head,
The Consecrating Oyl doth freely shed.

From that Day forward, upon *David* came
The Spirit of the Lord; which might proclaim.
To well-discerning Eyes, his Unction: as
Of *Saul's* Rejection a sure Token 'twas,
That the good Spirit did from him depart;
And to an evil Spirit left his Heart.

^{1 Sam.}
_{16.}

This evil Spirit from the Lord is said
On *Saul* to come: And it such Trouble made
To *Saul*, and all his Servants; that they thought
The best Expedient was, there should be sought
Some skilful Man, who on his *Harp* might play; A M
And drive that Spirit, for the time, away.
This they propose. He shews a ready Mind
To try it: bids them such an *Harper* find.
One mention'd *David*; whom he thus set forth:
A cunning Player, and a Man of Worth;
Valiant and Wise; a comely Person; One
To whom the Lord had special Favour shown,

This tickled *Saul*. To *Jesse* strait he sent
Some Messengers to fetch him. *David* went:
And with him *Bread*, *Wine* and a *Kid* did bring
A Present, from his Father, to the King.

His Office is assigned him, to stand
Before the King; and with a skilful Hand,
When *Saul* was troubled, on his Harp to play.
He did so: th' evil Spirit went away.

This made him dear to *Saul*. *Saul* quickly found ^{1 Sam.} _{16.}
The *Benefit*, which did to him redound
ough from the sweet *Harper's Musick*. For the sake
ght Whereof, he did him *Armor-Bearer* make.
lay; A Martial Office 'twas, to bear the *Sheild*
Of *Saul*, when he should march into the Field.

Which shews, he found *David* as well could weild
His Arms (a *Lance*, or *Spear*, and massy *Sheild*)
rth: And thereby, if Occasion were, defend
His Person, and, in need, due Succour lend:

As softly strike upon the tuneful String;
own, And thereby give *Refreshment* to the King.

Wherefore, unwilling *David* should go back,
t Lest he too soon his Ministry might lack;)
nt: He sent again to *Jesse*, to request
bring that, with his leave, he might be longer blest
With *David's Service*: that he might be freed
rom his Distemper. *Jesse* soon agreed.

C H A P. II.

W^Hile *Saul* yet Reign'd (altho' by God rejected An
Because he had the *Lord's Command* neglected Th

^{1 Sam.} The *Philistins*, with a puissant Host,
^{17.} Made an Invasion upon *Judah's Coast*.
Whom to repel, King *Saul* (when he it knew)
The Men of *Israel* together drew.

Upon two *Hills* the Warlike Camps were seen
A *Valley* lying in the midst between.
Each Army standing in Battalia rang'd,
Before a Stroke, on either side, was chang'd ;
From out the Camp of *Philistins*, behold,
There issu'd forth a *Champion*, proudly bold.
Upon his scouling Brow sate fuming Wrath;
His Name, *Goliath*; and his City, *Gath*.
In height he was six Cubits and a Span :
Rather, indeed, a Monster, than a Man.

Upon his Head a *Pot* of Brass he ware,
Too great for any Head, but his, to bear.
And in a *Coat* of *Mail* he was array'd,
That of fine Brass, *five Thousand Shekels* weigh'd.
His Shoulders did a brazen *Target* bear.
And on his Legs he *Greaves* of Brass did wear.
The *Staff* too of his *Spear* full well might seem,
For Bigness, to have been a *Weaver's Beam*.
The only *Head* whereof ('tis strange to say)
Six Hundred Shekels did, of Iron, weigh.
Before him went his *Squire*, who bore his *Sheild* ;
Too great for any, but himself, to weild.

1 Sam.
17.

Come within hearing of the Camp of *Saul*,
To *Israel's* Armies he aloud did call ;
And to this purpose spake, ‘ What need ye try
‘ The Fortune of a Battle ? Am not I,
‘ A *Philistin* ? You, Servants unto *Saul* ?
‘ Choose you a *Man*, the Stoutest of you all ;
‘ If he be able me, in Fight, to slay ;
‘ Then we henceforth will your Commands obey :

‘ But

^{1 Sam.} 17. ‘ But if, in single Combat, I prevail,
 ‘ And kill him; you to serve us shall not fail.
 ‘ Come, shew your Courage: Let it now appear,
 ‘ Ye have, at least, one Man, that’s void of Fear.
 ‘ All Israel’s Armies I, this Day, defie:
 ‘ Give me a Man, that may my Prowess try.

Thus, forty Days together, did he brave
 The *Israelites*; yet none an Answer gave.
 For *Saul* himself was terribly afraid;
 And the whole Host of *Israel* sore dismay’d.

While thus this *Son of Earth* did proudly vaunt,
 And, with his Looks, an Host of *Hebrews* daunt;
 It so fell out, or rather God so wrought,
 That little *David* to the Camp was brought:
David, old *Jesse*’s Son, the Ephrathite,
 Fitter, in shew, to follow Sheep, than Fight.

Sev’n other Sons had *Jesse*: Eight in all.
 Three of the Eldest served under *Saul*.

To see how well they far'd, and how things went,<sup>1 Sam.
17.</sup>
The good old Man his Youngest, *David*, sent,
pear, Not empty-handed. *David* early rose,
ar, And to the Camp, with *Vituals* laded, goes:
et not without providing One to keep,
Till he came back again, his Father's Sheep.

Just as the Host, to fight, was going out,
And, for the Signal, did, to Battle, shout;
Came *David* to the Trench: With hast he ran
To find his Brethren, e'er the Fight began.
And, as with them he talking stood, anon
Came forth the *Philistin*'s bold *Champion*,
Enclos'd in Brafs; and, with an hideous Cry,
Denounc'd his *Challenge* then, as formerly.
At sight of whom, a Sight that carried Dread,
The Men of *Isra'el* to their Trenches fled.

No sooner heard young *David* the Desy,
But brave *Disdain* did sparkle in his Eye.
His *Mettle* rose; his Breast with *Courage* swell'd:
He scarce himself, from falling on, with-held.

T

That

^{1 Sam.} That Spirit which, from God, upon him came
^{17.}

At his *Anointing*, now doth more enflame
 His Heart with holy Zeal ; and doth him bear
 Above the sense of *Danger*, and of *Fear*.
 He could not brook, That one, *Uncircumcis'd*,
 Defying *Israel*, should go unchaftiz'd.
 He talk'd with one : he turn'd him to another
 (Not daunted with the Snibs of's eldest Brother)
 He let them, both by Word and Gesture, know,
 He durst again the great *Goliah* go.

The Rumor of him reach'd the Royal Tent.
 And from the King a Messenger was sent,
 To bring him to him. In he nimbly stept,
 And said, O King, *The Challenge I accept*.
 Let no Man's Heart him fail : for, in the might
 Of God, I with this *Philistin* will Fight.

Alas ! said *Saul* (when he observ'd the Lad,
 A Shepherd-Swain, all in Sheep's Russet clad)
 To fight with him thou art too weak by far ;
 Thou but a *Youth* ; and he a *Man of War*.

1 Sam.
17.

Put Fear away, O King, the Youth reply'd
He is not weak who hath God on his side.

Fear the God of *Isra'el*, and have found,
Young tho' I am, his Strength, in need, abound.

Thy Servant slew a *Lyon*, and a *Bear*,
That, from my Father's Flock, a Lamb did tear.

And, since this *Philistin* hath, in his Pride,
The Armies of the Living God defy'd;

Th' Uncircumcised *Wretch* no more shall be,
Than was the *Lyon*, or the *Bear*, to me.

The Lord, who from the Bear's and Lyon's Paw
Did me preserve, because I lov'd his Law;
Will, I believe, since in his *Fear* I stand,
Preserve me out of this great *Lubber's* Hand.

The King amaz'd, yet glad withal, to find,
In such a Straight, so well-resolv'd a Mind,
Gives his Consent, and prays the Lord to bless
His *little* Combatant with *great* Success.
Himself, with his own Armour, *David* arms,
To render him the more secure from Harms.

Upon

^{1 Sam.} Upon his *Head* an *Helmet* he doth put
^{17.} Of massy Bras, through which no Sword could cut
 Then loads him also with a *Coat of Mail*,
 Which, having oft been try'd, did never fail.
 On all this *Gear* his *Sword* did *David* gird ;
 Then try'd to go : As soon as e'er he stir'd,
 He too unwieldy was, he found, to move ;
 Nor durst he fight in Arms he did not prove.
Saul's Armour therefore *David* did refuse.
Who fights for God must not Man's Weapons use.
 Wherefore *Saul's* Armour leaving in his Tent,
 He took his *Staff* in's Hand, and out he went,
 His *Sling* in t'other Hand : and, as he goes,
 He *five smooth Stones*, out of the *Valley*, chose,
 Opens his *Scrip*, and puts the Stones therein ;
 And then draws near unto the *Philistin*.

The *Gyant*, rolling round his gogling Eyes,
 At length the little *Hebrew* coming spies.
 At whom his haughty Breast with Scorn did swell
 And with such Words as these, he on him fell.

‘ Am I a Dog, thou despicable Boy,
That thus thou com’st, with Staves, ^{1 Sam.}
_{17.} to annoy?
Come hither, Sirrah, and thy Flesh, for Meat,
I’ll give unto the Fowls, and Beasts to eat him.
Then by his Gods (what could he mention worse!)
He belches out an execrable Curse,
With such a *Din*, as made the Valley shake,
And Beasts themselves unto their *Dens* betake.

When he had ended, *David* did begin;
And thus accosted the Proud *Philistine*.

‘ Thou com’st to me with *Sword*, & *Sheild*, & *Spear*.
But I to thee come in the *Name*, and *Fear*
Of God, the *Lord* of *Hosts*, by thee defy’d,
The *God* of *Isra’el*, to chastize thy Pride.
This Day will God into my hand thee put,
And from thy *Trunk* thy cursed *Head* I’ll cut.
Of all your Host the Carcasses, this Day,
Shall to the *Fowls* and *Beasts* be made a *Prey*;
That all, who on the spacious Earth do dwell,
May know there is a *God* in *Israel*.

‘ And

^{15am.} ‘ And to this whole Assembly ’t shall appear,
^{17.} ‘ That not by Sword the Lord doth save, nor Spear
‘ The Lord our God, the Battle doth command.
‘ And he will give you up into our hand.

So spake the sprightly Youth. And at that Word
Th’ enraged *Gyant* was so throughly stir’d,
That forth he step’d ; and lifting up his *Spear*,
With direful Threats, to *David* he drew near.
David again advanc’d to him as fast,
And taking, from his *Scrip*, a Stone ; it cast
From out his *Sling*, and smote the *Philistin*
Just on his Forehead, and the Stone sank in.
Down fell the *frightful* Monster on his Face,
His Weight a *Pit-fall* making in the Place.
Prostrate he sprawling lay. The bruised Earth
Receiv’d, with trembling, her deformed Birth.
One *Tell* he gave ; but such an one, as shook
Both Camps : the scared Beasts their Dens forsook
Then, with a *Groan*, he yeilded unto Death ;
Vomiting out, in smoky Flakes, his Breath.

thus with a *Sling* and *Stone*, did *David* smite,
Spear and slay *Goliath*, in a Single Fight,
nd. *dextrous* Slinger, who the Prize might win
om the * *Left-handed Sons of Benjamin!*

* *Sam.*
17.

ay, rather let the Praise to him alone
given, who did guide both *Hand* and *Stone*.

* *Judg.*
20. 16.

While, stretch'd upon the Ground, the *Giant* lay,
ake some great *Mole* of Earth, or *Bank* of *Clay* ;
e nimble *Striptling*, laying by his *Sling*,
d on his massy Shoulders lightly spring :
here standing, forth the *Giant's* Sword he drew ;
d therewith did his *Neck* assunder hew.
en, by the *baggy Locks*, the *Head* did take,
d lug along, until his Arms did ake.

Him, thus returning, Captain *Abner* meets,
ok embraces and affectionately Greets :
orsook tols his fearless Valour to the Sky,
ch ; d gratulates his happy Victory.

B

By

1 Sam.
17.

By him conducted to the Royal Tent,
 To Saul he doth Goliath's Head present
 Mean while the Philistines, their Champion dead,
 With Terror struck, in great Disorder fled
 The Hebrews, shouting, eagerly pursue,
 And of them kill'd and wounded not a few.
 Thus the Proud Philistines the Lord did quell,
 And wrought Deliverance for his Israel.

C H A P. III.

ASon had Saul, whose Name was Jonathan,
 A brave young Prince, and a Courageous Man.
 He present was, when David to the King
 The Trophy of his Victory did bring:
 And well observing David's Speech and Mein
 (The like to which he ne'er before had seen)
 His Love so strongly did to David move,
 That even as his Life he did him love.
 Nor did his Love on barren Matter fall:
 But fruitful prov'd, and grew reciprocal.

the David lov'd : Him David lov'd again. ^{1 Sam.}
_{18.} And which lov'd best, was hard to know, o'th' twain.

A solemn Covenant between them pass'd.
Friendship that beyond the Grave should last.
The noble Prince did of his Robe divest
himself, and David to accept it press'd.
His Garments he on David did bestow ;
Then to his Sword, his Girdle and his Bow.
Which Presents David did, with thanks, accept ;
Edges of Friendship, to be firmly kept.

Into chief Favour also with the King
his Glorious Victory did David bring.
Courtier now the Shepherd is become,
The King him not permitting to go Home.
Advanc'd he is unto an high Degree
Honour ; none so great with Saul, as he.
Over the Men of War the King him set.
Wherein his Wife Behaviour did him get
The Love of all the People ; and of all
The Courtiers too : a thing doth rarely fall.

^{1 Sam.} Now *Honours* on him wait: and, for a while,
^{18.}

Indulgent Fortune doth upon him smile.

In him both *Court* and *Country* take Delight:
At once the King's and People's Favourite.

But Oh! How *slippery* are Princes Courts,
Where *ickle Fortune* with poor Mortals sports!
And, by *alluring Baits*, doth them entice
To trust themselves upon the glazed Ice:
Then, on a fuddain, e're they are aware,
Trips up their Heels, and leaves them *grov'ling* the
The *Wheel*, whereon she doth her Creatures ra.
Is in continu'al Motion, never stays,
But always *whirls about*: who sit a-top
To Day, to Morrow to the Bottom drop.

How *tick'lish* is a Favourite's Estate,
Who must upon another's *Humour* wait:
And, when he apprehends he stands most fast,
Is puffed down, with an *inconstant Blast*!
If he the *Prince's Creature* seems to be,
He hardly 'scapes the *Peoples Obloquie*.

^{18.}
^{18.}

all their *Mis-haps* to his Account they score:

and lay their *Disappointments* at his Door.

in the *Peoples Favour* he appear,

the Prince or is, or seems to be in Fear:

and that *too Popular* he may not grow,

seeks all Occasions how to *Lay him low*.

David found. The People sing his Praise:

and that, in worthless *Saul*, doth Envy raise,

It so fell out that, now the Coasts were *clear*

from *Philistines*, and Peoples Minds from *Fear*;

the *Hebrew Dames*, from all the Cities round,

with Instruments of most melodious Sound,

came tripping out; and, all along the way,

upon the well-tun'd Strings, did sweetly play.

Their *Fingers* play'd; their nimble *Feet* did dance,

for Joy of their Unhop'd Deliverance.

Together thus they come, to meet the King;

and, in his Ears, this *Epinicion* sing.

AUL hath (of Enemies) his Thousands slain,

and DAVID his Ten Thousands] With Disdain

^{1 Sam.} The King this heard. It made his Colour rise;
^{18.} And his *Displeasure* sparkled in his Eyes.

While thus the Women, in their tuneful Chorus
Saul's Acts extol; and David's ten times more:
The Evil Spirit an envenom'd Dart
Let fly, and lodg'd it in Saul's thoughtful Heart.
The Poyson wrought, and in a trice possess'd,
With Soul-tormenting Jealousies, his Breast.
Suspition, and *Distrust* in him it bred; Not
And with *Surmizings* fill'd his troubled Head.
He swell'd and chapt Hatlength his Discontent
Did thus it self, in angry Accents, vent.

To David they ascribed halfe, said he,
Ten Thousands: And bai Thousands unto me.
Thus they prefer my *Kassal* me before; To you
And, but the Kingdom, what can he have more

From that Day forward, Saul did David eye,
And to have slain him, (divers times,) did try:

v'a while good *David* on his Harp did play,
The Trouble of *Saul's* Spirit toadlay.
But *David's* God (who had King *Saul* rejected,
And chosen *David*) *David* still protected.

Sam.
18.

When *Saul* perceiv'd (for he was wicked) Men
ave Sights of God's Outgoings, inowhand then))
hat God did prosper *David*; and did movèl iñ
the Hearts of all the People him to love; & so
he daily grew of *David* more afraid,
and studied how he might be best betray'd; &
Two Daughters had King *Saul*. A stately Dame
he Elder was, and MERA E was her Name.
topping Lady she, whose lofty Look
she w'd, that she nothing that was Low could brook.
commanding Pow'r reigh'd in her sparkling Eye,
and on her Brow sat anful Majesty.
sprightly Vigour fill'd her Manly Face,
which yet was not without a pleasing Grace.
had her Breast been big, she might have gone
among the Warridues, for she lik'd them no nū.

^{152.} So look'd Penthesilea, when she came
^{153.}

To Priam's Succour. Such another Dame
Was (she who durst engage in single Fight
With Theseus) the warlike Hippolite.

Unlike her self, a Sister Merah had
(The Joy and Grief of many a Noble Lad)
Fair MICH'EL she was call'd, whose lovely Fa
No Feature wanted that could add a Grace.
Her Body delicate. Wherein enshrin'd,
As in its Temple, dwelt a virtuous Mind.
Engaging Sweetness beamed from her Eye:
And on her Cheek late Maiden-Moderity,
Her courteous Mien gave Proof to all, that she
From Pride, and Haughtiness of Mind was free.
For of the Meanest she would notice take,
Her whole Converse Humility bespake.
So graceful was her Gesture, it did move,
At once, Beholders to admire and love.

These were Saul's Daughters. And by these the King
Ruin on David did design to bring.

1. S. M.
18.

y one of these he hoped to prevail:

All his other *Stratagems* should fail.

One of these Ladies promised had been
to whosoe'er should kill the *Philistin*.

Which *David* having done might justly claim
one; but the King had Power which, to name.

He therefore *Merab* first assign'd to be
the Guerdon of young *David's* Victory.

But when the time approach'd, he chang'd his Mind;
and her unto another's Bed consign'd.

But *Michal's*, lovely *Michal's* Virgin Love,
strong Desires, did unto *David* move.

Thelad was her Father on't: Nor could forbear
to say, *I'll give her to him for a Snare.*

His Servants he instructed how to draw
David to yeild, to be his Son-in-Law.
They tell him, what Delight in him the King
did take; what Honour it to him would bring,
the King to be unto his Sovereign ally'd:
Besides th' Enjoyment of so fair a Bride.

When

1 Sam: 18. When he himself excus'd, upon the Score
His Family was low: himself too poor:
Out of his slender Fortunes to advance
So large a Dowry, as the King, perchance,
Might look to have (for Women then were thought,
It seems, of Worth sufficient to be bought.)
Th' instructed Courtiers presently reply'd,
The King no Dowry doth desire, beside
An Hundred Fore-skins of his Enemies
The Philistines: That Dowry will suffice.

This was the Snare the treach'rous King did lay
His well-deserving David to betray.
Ungrateful Prince! Though David him had freed
From Danger, when he made Goliath bleed:
Yet on set-purpose he this Dowry chose,
That he to Danger David might expose.
He knew the valiant Youth's advent'rous Mind
The greatest Hazards never had declin'd.
And, by proposing this, he did intend
David to bring to an untimely End.

'Twas not Ambition to be Son-in-Law
Unto a King, did humble David draw.

1 Sam.
18.

Michal's fresh Beauty and Affection move
In youthful David like Returns of Love.

And when he heard what Dowry Saul propos'd
He gladly with the Proposition clos'd.

The Maid he lik'd (as who, indeed could choose)
The Terms he lik'd. What was there to refuse?

For though he should not Michal thereby gain,
He gladly would the Philistins have slain.

Up, with his Men, he in the Morning gets,
And on the Philistins so briskly sets;
That, tho' with all the speed they could, they fled
He laid a double Hundred of them dead.

Whose Fore-skins he unto the Court did bring,
And gave a double Dowry to the King.

Ill-pleas'd was Saul, that what he did project
For David's Ruin, wrought not that Effect.

Had David's Head been lifeless brought, that Sight
Would to his Eyes have yeilded more Delight.

Yet,

^{1 Sam.} Yet, since it would not further his Design,
^{18.}

To manifest Displeasure, and repine ;
He held it best, his Promise good to make ;
And *David* for his Son-in-Law to take.

Concealing therefore, for a little while,
His *Hatred* under a dissembled *Smile* ;
He of *true Gladness* made a feigned Show,
And *Michal* upon *David* did bestow.

The Marriage-Rites perform'd, the Shepherd's le Distur
With Nuptial Songs, to Princess *Michal*'s Bed.
Where leaving them, in amorous Embraces,
My Muse their Father's *Machinations* traces.

C H A

18.
18.

C H A P. IV.

NOT fully were the Princely *Nuptials* o'er;
Not fully Bride and Bridegroom joy'd, before
Envious *Fame*, by a confirm'd Report,
Disturb'd the Pleasures of the peaceful Court.

The *Philistins* again had took the Field:
The *Viol* now must to the *Clarion* yeild.
David to Field must go: The *Trumpet* sounds,
To bid the *Philistins* prepare for Wounds.
Saul's Hope revives, that some *Philistine* Spear
Will rid him of both *David*, and his Fear.
To lose a Battle would not trouble *Saul*,
So he might lose his Son-in-Law withal.

A bout, to his Trouble, *David* from the War
return'd, with *Conquest*, and without a Scar.
And, to torment him more, each Enterprize
rais'd *David* higher in the Peoples Eyes.

Till

18.
1 Sam.

Till now, a secret Hope restrained *Saul*,
 That *David* by the *Philistines* would fall.
 But having, by repeated Tryals, found
 That *David* still return'd, without a Wound :
 Grown desp'rate, and impatient of delay,
 1 Sam. He bids his Son, and Servants, *David* slay.
 19.

Surpriz'd, the *Courtiers* on each other gaze,
 As Men whom suddain Horror doth amaze.
 None undertakes the Work: All silent stand,
 Fill'd with *Abhorrence* of the King's Command.
 They could not, without Reluctation, hear
 His Death decreed, who was to them so dear.
 Nor could the King a Man amongst them gain,
 That would, with *David*'s Blood, a Finger stain.

But *Jonathan*, whose deeper-rooted Love
 Did, with a stronger Spring, to *David* move,
 Was not content, to only hold his Hand,
 From Executing that unjust Command:
 Unless his utmost Pow'r he also bent,
 His Brother *David*'s Ruin to prevent.

18.

Leavi

Leaving his Father therefore, out he goes,
To disclose his Father's wicked Counsels to David.
How confus'd lie was, 'twixt Grief and Shame.
griev'd to find his Friend so near Death's Jaws.
blush'd to think his Father was the Cause.
ame made him loth his Father's Fault to speak.
Friendship prompted, the Design to break.
endship prevail'd. And with a down-cast Eye,
made him understand the Danger nigh.
Not troubled more was David, when he heard
that he before suspected not, nor fear'd:
an over-joy'd in Jonathan to find
true a Friendship, and so brave a Mind.
d, in the most endearing Terms, he shew'd
hearty Sence thereof, and Gratitude.

Then, sitting down together, they concert
w they may best th' impending Storm avert.
was agreed, that David should abide
secret, until Jonathan had try'd

His

150m His Father's Temper; that he so might find,
19. How deep th' Offence was rooted in his Mind.

They part. And *David* doth himself withdraw
To Court goes *Jonathan*. With filial Awe,
And humble Stile, he *David*'s Cause doth plead
And with his Father thus doth intercede.

‘ Let not the King against his Servant Sin,
‘ Whose Works to thee-wards very good have been,
‘ His Life, thou know’st, he in his Hand did pre-gave
‘ And Great Goliab’s Head he off did cut.
‘ The monstrous *Philistin* by *David* fell.
‘ A great Salvation, to all *Israel*,
‘ The Lord by him did work. Thou didst it stand,
‘ And didst therein rejoice, as well as we.
‘ Why wilt thou *David* slay, without a Cause,
‘ Who is in all things subject to thy Laws?
‘ O draw not on thy self the heavy Guilt,
‘ That waits on guiltless Blood unjustly spilt!
‘ Pardon, most honour’d Father, I beseech,
‘ My Boldness, and the Freedom of my Speech.

it is for *David* that I humbly sue,
David, who doth thine Enemies subdue.

1 Sam.
19.

Let me prevail: thine Anger, pray withdraw
from both my Brother, and thy Son-in-Law.

So well did *Jonathan* discharge his part,
Well he us'd the *Oratorian* Art;
At he prevail'd: The King revers'd his Doom;
Father by the Son was overcome.

That there might no Ground for Fear remain,
And gave his Oath, *David* should not be slain.

Which Assurance *Jonathan* did bring
To *David*, to wait again upon the King.

Place in Court he takes: and for a space,
It stands, as formerly, in seeming Grace.

But 'twas not long before the cursed Root
Of Envy, did again begin to shoot:
Jealous *Saul* a fresh Occasion took,
To *David* with an evil Eye to look.

152m. His Father's Temper; that he so might find,
19. How deep th' Offence was rooted in his Mind.

They part. And *David* doth himself with-draw
To Court goes *Jonathan*. With filial Awe,
And humble Stile, he *David's* Cause doth plead
And with his Father thus doth intercede.

‘ Let not the King against his Servant Sin,
‘ Whose Works to thee-wards very good have been,
‘ His Life, thou know’st, he in his Hand did preserve,
‘ And Great *Goliab*’s Head he off did cut.
‘ The monstrous *Philistin* by *David* fell.
‘ A great Salvation, to all *Israel*,
‘ The Lord by him did work. Thou didst it see stand,
‘ And didst therein rejoice, as well as we.
‘ Why wilt thou *David* slay, without a Cause,
‘ Who is in all things subject to thy Laws?
‘ O draw not on thy self the heavy *Guilt*,
‘ That waits on *guiltless* Blood unjustly spilt!
‘ Pardon, most honour’d Father, I beseech,
‘ My Boldnes, and the Freedom of my Speech.

It is for *David* that I humbly sue,
David, who doth thine Enemies subdue.

1 Sam.
19.

Let me prevail: thine Anger, pray with-draw
From both my *Brother*, and thy *Son-in-Law*.

Read so well did *Jonathan* discharge his part,
Well he us'd the *Oratorian* Art;
That he prevail'd: The King revers'd his Doom;
For, *Father by the Son was overcome*.

He beth that there might no Ground for Fear remain,
David did *gave his Oath*, *David* should not be slain.

Which Assurance *Jonathan* did bring
David, to wait again upon the King.

Place in Court he takes: and for a space,
It stands, as formerly, in seeming Grace.

Use, but 'twas not long before the cursed Root
Of Envy, did again begin to shoot:
Jealous *Saul* a fresh Occasion took,
To *David* with an evil Eye to look.

^{1 Sam.} The restless *Philistins* the Land again
^{19.} Invaded had. Whom *David* to restrain
His Men led forth; and with such Fury flew
Upon them, that he their main Body slew.
Great was the Slaughter his revengeful Blade
Upon the *Philistins*, at that time, made:
That had not some repriev'd themselves by Flight,
The Host of *Philistins* had perish'd quite.

So great a Victory, 'twas thought by all,
Would have endeared *David* unto *Saul*:
And 'twas but reasonable to expect,
So good a Cause should yeild a good Effect.
But, on the contrary, he *David* more
Maligned now, then e'er he did before.
He saw, that *David* daily more became
The People's *Darling*: And he thought his Aim
Was at the Crown. He let in a *Surmize*,
That *David* one Day would against him rise.
He recollect'd what the *Prophet* said
Of his *Rejection*. And he was afraid

David would prove that *Neighbour*, * unto whom
the Kingdom, rent from him, in time should come. <sup>1 Sam.
19.</sup>

He saw, that God did eminently Bless <sup>* 1 Sam
15. 2d.</sup>

David's Undertakings with Success.

That David was unto the People dear,

He also saw; and that encreas'd his Fear.

He thought withal, that David did improve,

all the Arts he could, the Peoples Love;

that, having gain'd a pow'rful Interest,

He might, by Force, the Scepter from him wrest.

These restless Workings of his troubl'd Head,

Complexing Thoughts, and Terrors in him bred.

To length he was with Apprehensions fill'd,

That He himself, by David, should be kill'd.

How miserable is the State of those,
Aim'd from blind Suspicion doth to Fear expose!
With hath less Terror in it. Who can find
Rise forment equal to a jealous Mind!

When Saul this Apprehension in had let,
Did all his Passions in a ferment set.

^{1 Sam.} Fear, Anger, Envy, Madness, vengeful Hate
^{19.} Did boil together, and incorporate
In his foul Breast: yet so, that bloodless *Fear*
Did, in his Face prædominant appear.
Those other *Passions* ready were t' invent
New Kinds of *Tortures*, *David* to torment:
But *Fear* o'er-rul'd, and dictated that he,
By *David's Death*, himself from Death must free
And that it must be by a sudden Stroke,
Lest *David* should the People's Help invoke,
And they by Force him rescue. Thus again
Is guiltless *David* destin'd to be slain,
By Secret Sentence in the King's own Heart,
Which he resolv'd he would to none impart.
For he no more would trust to Friend, or Foe:
But his own Hand should give the fatal Blow.

C H. Con
d dotl
e Batt

C H A P. V.

When thus the King had David's Death design'd,
The Jeſſean Prince, whose uncorrupted Mind
was never tainted with disloyal Stain,
turn'd from Battle to the Court again.
As a Proof of Victory, did bring,
Spoils, a chosen Present to the King.

How easily is *Innocence* betray'd,
When, under *Show*s of Kindness, *Snares* are laid !
Apprehension had the guiltless Youth
Danger; arm'd with *Probity* and *Truth*.
such an *inoffensive* Mind did bear,
made him from *Suspicion* free, and *Fear*,
With Confidence unto the King he goes
His Confidence from Innocency flows)
He doth, in order, unto him relate
The Battle, and his Army's present State.

^{1 Sam.} The crafty King too, at the first Congress
^{19.} No Token of Displeasure did express.
 But, under *outside* Kindness, *inward* Hate
 Concealing, did a fitter Season wait
 To execute his Purpose; that the Blow
 Might satisfie, which should his Anger show.

Nor did he long for an Occasion wait,
 But, in a while, as in his House he sate;
 The evil Spirit from the Lord (*for God*
Makes use of evil Spirits, as a Rod).
 Upon him came; his Jave'lin in his Hand,
 And *David*, playing on his Harp, did stand
 Before him, with refreshing Tunes t' allay
 His Grief, and th' evil Spirit drive away.

So kind an Office, sure, one might have thought *Perj*
 Upon the worst of Natures would have wrought on
 And hindred even the most savage Mind,
 From perpetrating what he had design'd.
 But *Saul*, now hard'ned to a brutish Rage,
 Which not the softest Sweetnes could asswage *ack no*

This

Thinking he now had an Advantage got
To strike the Stroke, when *David* ey'd him not,
His Jave'lin at him, with such Fury, cast,
That, had it hit, that Hour had been his last.
But who the Kingdom unto *David* gave,
David now from threat'ned Danger save.

1 Sam. 19.

The *russ'ling* of *Saul's* Garment (when on high
He rais'd his Arm, to let the Jave'lin fly)
Made *David* look, and nimbly slip aside,
While the *sharp-pointed Shaft* did by him glide.
Which, *whirling* by, with such a Force did fall,
That fast it stuck upon the adverse Wall.

Twas time for *David* warning now to take,
And for his Safety due Provision make.
That Person now he could no longer trust,
A rough one, that neither *grateful* was, nor *just*.
One, whom no Services could render kind:
Nor the most solemn Promises could bind.
One, who, to gratifie his groundless Hate,
Wagick not his Sacred Oath to violate.

Thi

C 4

With

^{1 Sam.} With such an one it was not safe to stay :
^{19.}

While therefore safe he was, he went away.

- The treach'rous Court he speedily forsook,
And to his private House himself betook,
Where, to his loyal Wife, he did relate
Her Father's *Falseness*, and his own *hard Fate*.

Mean while the wrathful King (whose hot desire
Of *David's Death*, had set him all on Fire)
Vex'd that his russ'ling Robe that Warning gave
To *David*, from the Stroke himself to save;
And fearing lest, if now he got away,
He might the Wrong revenge another Day:
All in a Rage, he certain of his Guard
(Whose *surly Looks* bespeak their Natures *hard*)
Unto him call'd; and charg'd them to repair
Forthwith to *David's House*, and slay him there.

With down-cast Looks the troubled Guards receive
The unexpected Charge. The Court they leave
And, lest they should, for Backwardness be charged,
To *David's House* their heavy Steps direct.

here make a stand : and set a privy Watch,
^{151m.}
that, if he out should step, they might him catch.

But loyal *Michal*, whose mistrustful Eye
had all the Ways survey'd, did them descry :
And told her Husband, If he should remain
in his House till Morning, he would then be slain,
t dephen, through a Lattice, did direct his Eye
To th' Place where the insidious Guards did lye.

The Sight of these, and Sense for what they came,
Did his advent'rous Courage so inflame :
What, had not *Michal*, weeping, on him hung,
She boldly had himself among them flung,
With Sword in hand. But *Michal*'s moving Tears
Wrought him to listen to her pressing Fears.
Together, thereupon, they Counsel take ;
By what means he a safe Escape may make.
Is resolve shews the way : fair *Michal* doth propose ;
And *David*, won by her, doth therewith close.]

When

1 Sam. 19. When *Darkness* had the Place of *Light* posseſſ'd

And drowzy Sleep had Mortals laid to rest;
When through the fable Clouds no Star appear'd
No gagling *Goſſe*, nor yelping *Cur*, was heard:
Then *Michal* (who had all things ready got,
Needful to carry on the harmless Plot)
Having her dearest *David* oft embrac'd
(While he encircled, with his Arms, her Waſt)
Did, through a Window, gently let him down;
And softly said, *Live, David, for the Crown.*
May God thee keep, and bring thee ſafe aȝen
Unto thy Michal. He reply'd, **A M E N.**
Then, with a Sigh, ſhe did the Window close.
Her Sigh he echo'd: and away he goes.

C H A P. VI.

NOW travels *David*, in a mournful Plight,
Under the Covert of a darksome Night;
And *Gibea* left, himself he recommends
To God's Protection, and to *Ramah* bends
His wand'ring Course. At *Ramah* then did dwell
His Friend, the Rev'rend Prophet, *Samuel*.
Arriv'd, he to the Prophet opens all
The Wrongs, which he sustained had from *Saul*.
How he his Life had sought, he doth relate;
And much laments his own unhappy State.

The good old Man doth *David's* Case bewail,
And, that his Spirit might not sink, or fail;
Both him encourage in the Lord to trust,
Whom he had found both Merciful and Just.
He wish'd him call to Mind the *Oyl* was shed,
At *Beth-lehem*, upon his youthful Head,

By

^{1 Sam.} By God's Command : That, being so Anointed,
^{19.}

He to the Kingdom was, by God, appointed ;
Who, through his Troubles, would him still present
From Hurt, if he from God did never swerve.
Advis'd him therefore, not to let in *Fear*,
How great soe'er his *Perils* might appear :
But trust in God, who never will forsake
The *Wrong'd* ; who him for their *Protector* take.
David thus strength'ned : He and *Samuel*
To *Najoth* go ; and there together dwell.

Mean while, with eager Eyes, th' impatient King
Look'd, every Moment, when his Guards would bring
The Head of *David*. In, at length, they come,
And tell him, *David's* sick a-bed at *Home*.
For, with that shift, when they the Door drew nigh,
And ask'd for *David*, *Michal* put them by ;
Having an *Image* placed in his Bed,
With *Goats-hair* Pillow laid, as 'twere his Head.

With furrow'd Brows, and Countenance few'd,
The disappointed King his Guards did hear :

d, sharply check'd for be'ing so negligent,
; them back with speed to *David's* House he sent.
eser, fetch him, Bed and all, without delay,
. d he, that I my self the Wretch may slay.

1 Sam.
19.

They go. But, Oh ! the rage that in him burn'd,
d at his Nostrils fum'd, when they return'd,
ake. d brought him Word that, *David* being fled,
ome they found an *Image* only in his Bed.

w did he storm ! He now incens'd was more,
nt K this Escape, than e'er he was before.
d br Fretted him to think that, by a *Wile*,
ome Daughter *Michal* should him thus beguile.
w n ex'd him, that his easie Guards should let
that Enemy have time away to get,
that which most of all disturb'd his Mind,
s, that he *David* knew not where to find.
ead. And foul he would have fell, it might be fear'd,
on his Guards, had he not timely heard,
at *David*, in the dark, to *Najoth* slid ;
e sev And there himself among the Prophets hid.
r : Forthwith

^{1 Sam.} Forthwith to *Najoth* Messengers he sent,
^{19.} To fetch him thence: Away, with speed, they went
 But here, the Lord himself doth interpose,
 To save his *David* from invading Foes.
 For when they to the *Prophets School* were come,
 And saw the Company of Prophets; some
 Then Prophesying, all the rest attent,
 And *Samu'el* standing o'er, as President,
 They could not *David* touch: But on them all
 Who were, to apprehend him, sent by *Saul*,
 A Spirit came from God; and they began
 To fall a Prophesying, Man by Man.

Thrice did the *stubborn* King this Course repeat,
 And God, as oft, did his Design defeat.
 No sooner came his Messengers among
 The Prophets, but Prophetick Notes they sung.
 Gall'd with these Disappointments, th' angry King
 (Whom *Envy*, *Fear* and *Jealousie* did sting)
 Resolves in Person he'll to *Najoth* go;
 And once more try what he himself can do:

1 Sam.
19.

ward he sets, and all the way he went,
we contriv'd how he might *David* circumvent.

But e're he got to *Najoth*, on him fell
Spirit from the Lord ; and he, as well
as they whom he before had sent, began
Prophecy : and Prophesying ran
Najoth, where, at sight of *Samuel*,
at stripping off his Cloaths, he prostrate fell
on the Ground ; and in that ruful plight,
naked all that Day, and all that Night.
Hence a Proverbial Speech it grew to be,
when in Religious Company we see
one, who himself Religious is not ;
Saul then too among the Prophets got ?

How admirable are the Ways of God,
whether his *Staff* he uses, or his *Rod* !
The *First* of these his fainting Ones doth stay :
The *Last* doth them Correct that run astray.
Who would not bow to that tremendous Pow'r,
which can thus eas'ly us o'er-rule ; and our

Designs

18. Designs defeat? Who would not to that Hand
19. His Will submit, that can all Wills Command?

How resolutely, in an headstrong Will,
Did Saul determin he would David kill!
How eagerly did he his Will pursue,
His trembling Hands in David's Blood t' imbrue
What direful Threats did he breath forth, what he
Would do, could he again but David see!
Yet, when he came where David was, we find
That awful Pow'r his Spirit down did bind:
He could not David touch. No Pow'r he had,
How bad soe'er his Will was, to be bad.
But over-pow'r'd (though Evil was his Heart)
He was constrain'd to act the Prophet's Part.
He spake, and did, as Prophets us'd to do,
Who were inspired, by the Lord, thereto.

Small odds, perhaps, or none to outward Sign
Might be 'twixt this *wrong* Prophet, and the right;
Each, probably, alike might act, and speak;
And be alike regarded, *by the Weak*

1 Sam.
19.

d undiscerning Croud, who seldom try
and the outward Ear, and outward Eye.

plain it is, that *Saul* was now no more
God regarded, than he was before.

Prophesied, when he was among
the Prophets; but *his Spirit still was wrong.*

One long before (who *Balak* taught to lay
ang'rous Stumbling Block in *Isræl's Way*)
grand Exemplar is, that Wicked Men,
against their Wills, may utter, now and then,
those sacred Mysteries, which God alone
can, by his Spirit, unto Man make known.

What glorious Things did *Beor's Son* * declare
cerning *Jacob's Seed*! How precious are

* Num.
23, &
24.

Prophesies, wherein he did foretel
Beauty, Strength and State of *Israel*!

Great Soul-refreshing Comforts do arise,
to serious Minds, from those sweet Prophesies!
Well they may: for God himself had put
the Prophet's Mouth a Word; and shut

D

His

^{1 Sam.} His *Divinations* out: whereby we know
^{19.}

What he then spake did from God's Spirit flow.

Yet this, perhaps, of Prophets was the worst
Who, for *Advantage*, would have *Isra'el* Curs'd.
For which, how well soe'er he spake, he stands
Condemn'd upon Record, with publick Brands.
Yet God, to shew his Sov'reignty, doth chuse,
Sometimes, the Tongues of such as these to fit,
Who, tho' the Truths they tell may be believ'd,
Yet are not they themselves to be receiv'd.

*^{Num.} Though *Balaam* did of *Jacob's Star** declare,
^{24. 17.}

||^{1 Cha.} *The Sword of Isra'el did not* Balaam || spare:
^{31. 8.}

Nor is it long e're Prophesying *Saul*

+^{1 Sam.} Shall forced be on his own *Sword* to + fall.
^{31. 4.}

May these Examples lead us to beware
How we receive such (Preach they n'er so fair)
For Gospel-Ministers. But let us rather

*^{1 Sam.} Observe (as he * of old) But who's their Father's wife?
^{10. 22.}

For Men may glorious Truths declare, we see Friends

Yet they the Children of the Devil be.

1 Sam.
19.

C H A P. VII.

W^Hile yet, among the Prophets, raptur'd lay
King *Saul*; nor Power had to get away:
God *David*, who, with Reverence, admir'd
use, his gracious Act of Providence, retir'd;
com^t, when the *Fit was over*, angry *Saul*
ie^{would}, in Displeasure, on the Prophets fall.

e, From *Najoth* therefore (having first adviz'd
th rev'rend *Samu'el*, whom he highly priz'd)
undiscern'd, withdrew; and strait did bend
1. Course to *Jonathan*, his faithful Friend:
whose Bosom he could freely vent
Sorrows, and his hunted State lament.

The gentle Prince (whose truly Noble Breast
Pat^s with a generous Compassion blest)
Friends Complaint, his Dangers and his Fears,
with close, but sorrowful, Attention hears:

18. And, having heard, endeavours, what he may,
His Fears, with strong Assurance, to allay.
He thought his Father nought would undertake,
To which he would not him first privy make:
Whereby, he hop'd, it in his Pow'r would be
His Friend, if ought attempted were, to free.

But *David*, whom Experience now had taught,
That, both by *Force* and *Fraud*, his Life was sought, and sh
Judg'd it not safe, his Person to expose,
On such uncertain, ticklish Grounds, as those. his
He told his *Jonathan*, 'Twas not unknown, and sh
How firm a Friendship was between them gro. eth
'Twas therefore reasonable to believe, vid,
His Father hid from him what would him griezel
Or might, perhaps, designedly conceal ar w
His Mind from him; lest he should it reveal. , fro
Yet know, said he, as sure as thou hast Breath
There's but a single Step 'twixt me and Death before

That Word with such an Accent, *David* sp. Oath
That it a deep Impression did make.

upon his tender Friend. His quick'ned Sense
like a strong Spring, new Vigour took from thence.
Starting, he said, From Mischief mayst thou be,
My dearest David, and from Danger, free!
Which that thou mayst, I ready am to do
Whate'er thou judgest may conduce thereto.

154M.
18.

Then sitting down, they mutual Counsel take;
Sough'd, at the length, they this Conclusion make,
That Jonathan, his Father's Mind, once more,
His Return from *Najoth*, should explore:
And should, accordingly, let *David* know,
Whether his Death designed was, or no.

David, mean while, did, by agreement, stay
At *Ezel-stone* (a Mark, that shew'd the Way)
Near which, in bushy Covert, he might lie
Safe, from the View of any passing by.

Death before that yet they of each other took
Their Leave, a solemn Covenant they strook,
Oath confirm'd; confirm'd by sacred Oath,
An inviolable Bond on both,

Which to their utmost Off-spring should extend,
On either Side, and never have an End,
By which *Astipulation* they did bind
Themselves, to be unto each other kind,
That *Jonathan* should faithfully report
To *David*, how he found Things stand at Court,
And should his utmost Pow'r employ, to free
His Friend from Danger, if he any see.
On t'other hand, That *David* (when the Throne
Of *Israel* should come to be his own)
Should *Jonathan*, and all that from him spring, be
Secure from Danger, while himself is King.
For *Jonathan* (whose deeply-piercing Eye
On *David's* Brow did Marks of Empire spy)
Was wont, with Confidence, his Friend to tell,
That he should *Monarch* be of *Israel*.

By this time *Saul* from *Najoth* was return'd, Fath
With smoother Brow: But in his Breast still bore the
Malignant Hate: nor did he yet despair; *David*
To compass *David's* Death at unaware.

The New-Moon now drew on, and therewithal
viv'd the cursed Hopes of cruel Saul.^{1 Sam. 18.}

He made no doubt, but at the New-Moon-Feast,
should have zealous David for his Guest.

At such times, he always did admit
David, at Table, with himself, to sit.

And then, he hop'd, with more Success, to cast
Jaye'lin, than when he attempted last.

The New-Moon being come, and David's Seat
being empty, when the King sate down to Meat.

Two Days together; Saul began to doubt
what was design'd: And with an angry Pout,
Why cometh not, said he, old Jesse's Son
to the Meat, as he, in former times, hath done?

Thus Saul to Jonathan: Who, having ey'd
Father's angry Countenance, reply'd,
Will buse thou art pleas'd, the Reason to demand
David's Absence, please to understand,
That David unto Beth-lehem is gone,
Urgent Bus'ness (to return anon)

15am.
18.

A Yearly Sacrifice his Brethren hold,
 At this time, there (as he himself me told)
 To which the Family doth all repair ;
 And he himself was summon'd to be there.
 He therefore earnestly of me did crave
 Leave to go thither ; and him leave I gave.

As from the Prince's Lips these Words did f As
 A Fire of Rage enkind'led was in *Saul* stea
 Against his Son, which forth, in Choler, brake Ja
 And with a furious Accent, thus he spake. is w
 e no

' Thou Son of the perverse rebellious Woman is st
 ' (Whose headstrong Folly will be rul'd by no M it s
 ' Do not I know, that Thou hast *Jesse's* Son Whic
 ' Made Choice of to thine own Confusion ? e, w
 ' For until *Jesse's* Son be in his Grave, , m
 ' Thy Kingdom no Establishment can have. Alth
 ' Send therefore, Fetch him (e'er he further) et w
 ' Make no delay : for he shall surely dye. ch a
 These Words in such a thund'ring Tone he spak
 As seem'd to make the Hall he sate in shake. f m

Gr

Griev'd was the Princely *Jonathan*, to hear
Sentence so *unjust*, and so *severe*.

1 Sam.
20.

small Hopes he had : yet could not choose, but try,
his Father's *stormy Mind* to pacify.

and to that purpose, in an humble Tone,
. ask'd, *Why shall David die? What hath he done?*

As suppling *Oyl*, on flaming Fire cast,
instead of *quenching*, doth *augment* the Blast:
Jonathan's soft Words enkind'led more
his wrathful Father, than he was before.
He nothing said: Too full he was to speak,
his stifling Choler could not Silence break.
at snatching up, with furious Haste, his Spear
(Which at his Hand, designedly stood near)
e, with such Force, at *Jonathan* it threw,
, more than Words, his bloody Mind did shew.

Although the Prince the Spear did nimbly shun;
yet was he greatly mov'd, at what was done.
such an *Indignity* would stir a Man
of meaner Spirits than was *Jonathan*;

Consid'ring

^{Sam.} Consid'ring that it was a *publick* Shame:
^{20.} And more, because it from a Father came.
The harder too it was for him to bear,
Who was his Father's, and the Kingdom's *Heir*:
Himself long since Adult: and, which was more
Had been his Father's *Viceroy* just before.
All which together working in his Breast,
Made this Abuse uneasy to digest.

From Table therefore he, in Heat, arose;
And, breathing forth Displeasure, out he goes.
Then to his own *Apartment* doth retire,
To give free vent to this new-kind'led Fire.
Where falling on his Couch, he doth bemoan
Much more his Friend's Condition, than his own.
For as for what concern'd his late Disgrace,
He doubted not consid'ring Men would place
It to his Father's *Passion*; and that he
Himself, his *Passion o'er*, would troubled be.
But, Ah! his Friend, his Friend! Poor David's Case
Did more affect him, than his own Disgrace.

longer now doth any Thought remain
Jonathan, that David's Fears were vain.
No clearer Evidence he now doth need,
That David's Death was by the King decreed.
His Act of Violence, for David's sake,
With clear'd his Doubt, and made his Heart to ake.

1 Sam.
20.

The tedious Night in restless Tossings spent,
Twixt uneasie Grief and Discontent;
Soon as e'er Aurora did disclose
The springing Day, the faithful Prince arose:
With Honour and Affection did him spur;
And, e're the Lark was stirring, made him stir,
Wheretoour reminds him, that his Word he gave
To David: Love said, Thou must David save.
Which that he might, he to the Field doth go,
His Page his Quiver bearing, and his Bow;
Not knowing why:) No otherwise he went,
Than if, to Recreat himself, he meant.
Come near the place, where Jesse's Son did wait
The doubtful Issue of his doleful Fate,

His

^{1 Sam.} His horned Bow, with Sinewy Arm, he drew;

^{20.}

And over *David's* Head the Arrows flew:

One of which Shafts a private Token bore,

Agreed upon between themselves before;

By which poor *David* understood too well,

What *Jonathan* unwilling was to tell.

The thoughtless *Page*, who nothing did suspe
With nimble Speed, the Arrows did collect;
And to his Master bring, who did deliver
Unto the *Lad* his unstrung Bow and Quiver
To carry home. Himself remain'd behind,
As if, to walk alone, he were inclin'd.

The Youth now gone, and *Jonathan* alone,
Forth *David* came, from side of *Ezel-stone*:
And, falling to the Ground, with tripled Bend
Of Body, did Salute his noble Friend.

Then casting Arms about each other's Neck,
Their pearly Tears each other's Breast bedeck.
They wept and kiss'd, They kiss'd and wept ag
Nor could they soon those christal Floods restrain

which *Kiss* a fresh Supply of *Tears* did breed,
both their Eyes; till *David* did exceed.

1 Sam.
20.

length, their Covenant renew'd, they part,
each of them bearing with him t' other's Heart.
They part: And each doth his own Path pursue,
With Eyes cast back while either was in View.

The End of the FIRST Book.

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DAVID E S.

BOOK II.

CHAPTER I.

NOW travels *David* with a thoughtful Mind,^{1 Sam. 21.}
 Uncertain where a safe Retreat to find :
 For though, while prosp'rous his Affairs did stand,
 His Friends, and Servants many, could command ;
 Yet now, that Frowns had wrinkle'd Fortune's Face,
 He knew not where to find a resting Place.

In this perplexed State, his pious Mind
 Was, to Consult the *Oracle*, inclin'd ;
 The *inambiguos* Oracle, from whence
 Jehovah secret Counsels did dispense :

And

^{1 Sam.} And *undeceiving Answers* always gave
^{21.} To such as, with an honest Mind, did crave.

To *Nob* his weary Steps he therefore bends,
(Nob was a City of the Priests, his Friends)
 And to *Ahimelech* he doth repair,
 Who then possess'd the *Pontifical Chair*.

The rev'rend *Pontiff*, who had nothing heard
 Of *David's Troubles*, now was sore a-feard
 To see him come alone; who, not long since,
 Was royally Attended, like a Prince.
 He startled at the Sight: nor could forbear
 To ask, Why *unattended* he came there.

It hap'ned, that a certain *Edomite*,
 Who to the *Hebrews* was a *Proselyte*,
 (One who had Charge and Oversight of all
 The *Herds*, and *Herd-men*, that belong'd to *Sat* n
 Was present there; whether detain'd by *Vow* d that
 Or on what other Score, I know not how.

m, standing in a Corner, *David* spy'd,
ve. before he to *Ahimelech* reply'd;

^{1 Sam.}
_{21.}

d, knowing well the Man, he was afraid
ends Friend, the Priest, would be by him betray'd,
6) after he the King's Displeasure knew,
any Kindness unto him should shew.

it therefore *into Danger* he should bring
Friend, or *out of Favour* with the King;

heard held it best his Troubles to conceal,
d not his adverse Fortune to reveal:

nce, that, if this *Pick-thank* should relate to *Saul*,
ight that, against the *Priest*, should stir his Gall;
r the *Priest* the Accusation might surmount,
place his Kindness to the King's Account.

He therefore gave the *Priest* to understand,
coming thus, was by the King's Command:
all so, he pretended, had dispatch'd him so,
to *Saul* none his secret Enterprize might know;
Vow'd that his Servants he before did send
such a Place, his coming to attend.

^{1 Sam.} Adding, that in such hast he came away
^{21.} (The Kings Command admitting no delay)
 That of Provision he had never thought ;
 Nor had his Sword, or Weapons with him brou-

The guiltless Priest, with unsuspecting Ear,
 This feigned Story, for a Truth, did hear.
 And, not with *Victuals* only him supply'd,
 But arm'd him with *Goliath's* *Sword* beside :
 Which, offer'd to the Lord, when he was slay'd,
 Did with the *Priest* unto that time remain.
 Nay, wanting other, he the *Shew-Bread* gave
 Appointed for the *Priests* alone to have,
 In doing which, he Errs that thinks he Err'd Got,
 Since *Mercy* is to *Sacrifice* preferr'd.
 Yet e're he gave the consecrated Bread,
 He ask'd, if They, who should therewith be
 Were Clean. *Who will of Holy Things partake,*
Must whatsoever makes Unclean forsake.

Thus furnish'd; *David* did from *Nob* depart
 And set his Face for *Gath*, with heavy Head.

not knowing else, where he his Head might hide: ^{1 Sam.}
_{21.} nor could he long in Safety there abide.
The Servants of King Achish quickly knew
that he was David who Goliath slew.
And strait recounted (to incense their King)
Ear, that erst the Hebrew Dames of him did sing,
Then, in their Dancing and Triumphant Strain,
They brag'd, That he had his Ten Thousands slain.
This David heard: but would not seem to hear,
Concealing, with his utmost Care, his Fear;
In, by a Stratagem, he found a way
gave himself, from Gath, in Safety to convey.
Err'd not, past the Confines of King Achish Land,
Isra'el's Coast again; He's at a stand
which way to take, or whither to direct
his wandring Feet: where he might, unsuspect,
conceded lie, until those Clouds were past, sh
which his Hemisphēr was overcast.
in the World he did not know a Friend,
deparom he could trust: and who could him defend.
Hea

^{1 Sam.} And *Saul*, if once discov'red, would (he knew)
^{21.} Through all the Tribes of *Isra'el* him purfue.

No long time had he to deliberate
 What Course to take, so pressing was his Fate:
 Yet, in those Moments, many a Place was broug
 Under the Judgment of his winged Thought.

^{1 Sam.} Of all the Refugees his wary Mind
^{22.} Could, in such haste, and on a sudden, find,
 None pleas'd him better, than a certain Cave,
 To which its Name the Town *Adullam* gave.
 A spacious Cave it was; yet known to few:
 Remote from *Gibeah*, and from publick View.
 And (which did recommend it to his State)
 'Twas in the Tribe of *Judah* situate;
Judah, the Tribe from which he sprang, and wh
 He had most Reason to expect Defence.
 This Solitary Cave, he thought, was best:
 Where, for a while, he hop'd to find some R
 The Towns and Cities therefore he forsook,
 And to *Adullam's* Cave himself betook.

Where long he had not been, before he spy'd
^{1 Sam.}
_{22.}

Friend pass by, whose Faith he oft had try'd :
whom, unto his Brethren, and his Friends,
notice of his safe Arrival sends.

With Joy, like that which Jacob did revive,
When news was brought that Joseph was alive,
And good old Jesse the good Tydings hear
That David was in Safety, and so near :
And forthwith he, his Wife, and ev'ry Son,
With all their Families, to David run,
To Embrace, and cheer him in his Straight :
Solv'd henceforth to run a common Fate.

The Bruit hereof soon spread, and that Report
Made others also unto him resort.
Who'er was in Distress, or Discontent ;
And all that were in Debt, unto him went.
A goodly Troop did unto him repair,
With Minds as desp'rare, as their Fortunes were.
And these, with one Consent, implore that He
Captain o'er them will vouchsafe to be.

1 Sam. He to their Importunity doth yield,
22. And taking Muster of them in the Field;
Who, t' other Day, no living Soul could find,
To whom to trust his Person, or his Mind:
Now finds himself environ'd with a Throng
Of mett'led Blades, about Four Hundred strong.

When first that lonely Cave was in his Eye,
He purpos'd only th'ere abstar'd to lye,
Till Providence should his Affairs dispose;
And reconcile him to his causelef's Foes.
But this Arcess of Forces did him force
To alter now his Counsels, and his Course.
He well consider'd, that it was in vain
To hope, that he could long Conceal'd remain
That of his Confluence of Men, Report
Would soon Be made to Saul's enquiring Cou
And that, with windy Trumpet, flying Fame
Would quickly it, through all the Tribes, procl
That Saul, it heard, would not a Moment sta
But fly upon him, like a Bird of Prey.

therefore all things needful doth, with Care,
readiness for his *Defence* prepare.

1 Sim.
22.

Soldiers he doth *discipline*, and shew

th how to use the *Sword*, and draw the *Bow*.

Aged Parents unto *Moab's King*

(Conduct first obtained) he doth bring;

Promise, that they there should safe abide,

God should please the Quarrel to decide:

Moab's King and *Saul* were then at War;

which made him *David* countenance so far.

things thus dispos'd, He from the Hold did go
(by his Prophet *Gad*, directing so)

March'd to *Hareth-Forest*, where he might,

encor'd thereto, with more Advantage Fight.

1 Sam.
22.

C H A P. II.

NOW wrap thy self, my *Muse*, in sable W^him
Whilst thou relat'st the most inhuman Dⁱdid
That e'er was done. Lay by thy *Lawrels* now vone
And wreath thy Temples with a *Cypress*-Boug^h
Thou, who, of all the *Nine*, ne'er known to bⁿ t^h
Art held *Inventress* of the *Tragick* Stile,
Speak through my Quill; and on a doleful S^teat
In mournful Notes, a *Tragick* Story sing.

It was not long, e're *Saul*'s attentive Ear,
Of *David*, and his New-rais'd Men, did hear
And calling to Remembrance, That his Son As C
(Whose Courage was inferiour to none) ratin
On the *Affront* was put upon him last T^e
(When he, at Meat, his Jave'lin at him cast^d, in
Was, in Displeasure, from the Court retir'd
His Fear suggested that they both *conspir'd*

ainst him, and *Confederated* were,
<sup>1 Sam.
22.</sup>

Crown and Scepter 'twixt themselves to share ;
which, well he knew, could not be done, but he
must, if not slain, at least *Dethroned* be.

The Thought of which, as it did *Horror* breed
Le *W*him, whose *Fear* did from his *Guilt* proceed.
Can I did it boyl his *Anger* to a *Rage*,
now vond the Force of *Reason* to asswage.

Boughs did he lay him down to lie
In to this *Turmoil*, he chanc'd abroad to be,
Under the *Umbrage* of a well-spread Tree ;
A St^reath whose shady Boughs, in *Chair* of State,
Sate, himself to Cool and Recreate.

But him stood his Servants, in a Ring,
Waiting the Pleasure of their angry King.

As *Chafing* thus he sate, 'twixt *Wrath* and *Fear*,
Griating, in his palfied Hands, his Spear ;
His Terror-striking Eye he roll'd about :
casted, in a while, his *Choler* thus brake out.

Hear

1 Sam. 22. ' Hear now, ye Benjamites, will Jesse's Son,
 ' When he the Crown of Israel hath won,
 ' To ev'ry one of you (who Succour yields
 ' Unto him now) rich Vineyards give and Field
 ' Will he you all, of Thousands, Captains make
 ' That ye so ready are his Part to take;
 ' That all of you against me have Conspir'd:
 ' And not a Man, since Jonathan retir'd,
 ' Hath shew'd me that my Son a League hath m
 ' With Jesse's Son: and that I am betray'd?
 ' Are ye so well assur'd of David's Grace,
 ' That he will each of you promote to Place
 ' Of Trust and Honour, that among you none
 ' Me pities; none hath shewn me, that my So
 ' Hath stirr'd up my Servant War to make;
 ' And both my Crown and Life away to take

This unexpected Speech, the Courtiers stro
 Amaz'd: they stand, and on each other look.
 Each Man among them knew himself to be
 From treasonable Combination free.

1 Sam.
22.

though their Love to David did remain :
did they still their Loyalty retain.
when the King's stern Visage they beheld,
outing Lips, his Cheeks with Anger swell'd ;
stormy Brow ; His fiery sparkling Eye ;
foaming Mouth, with Fury drawn awry ;
fuming Breath, puff'd out with Ardor ; and
trembling Motion in his restless Hand :
free from Guilt, they were not free from Fear ;
vihg how apt he was to cast the Spear.

While thus the Courtiers in a silent Maze,
the King, and one another, gaze ;
Dogg Step'd, Sprung from the Edomites,
herdsman chief, and chief of Parasites :
same who, t'other Day, with leering Eye,
David in the Tabernacle Spy.
Now, to curry Favour with his Lord,
how the Priest and David did accord.
he himself at Nob had lately been,
David with Ahimelech had seen.
How

How kind the *Priest*; how ready to enquire
Of God, in *David's* Case, at his desire.

Adding, The *Priest* with Food had *David* stor'd
And arm'd him also with *Goliath's* Sword.

In short, he told whate'er *Ahitub's* Son
Had unto *David* said, or for him done.

And in such Terms the Matter did relate,
As were most apt the King to irritate.

Hiding what would the *Priest* have freed from bl
That *David* in the King's Name to him came.

The King in Pain, through Rage, too closely
Within his swollen Breast, for want of vent.
Was glad this Charge against the *Priests* to ha
Resolving to discharge his Fury there.

Forthwith a Pursevant was sent to bring
The *Priests* from *Nob*, before the wrathful King.
The *Priests* the Royal Summons to obey,
Forthwith did put themselves upon the Way.
And in a Body, with a good Intent,
Themselves, at *Gibe'ab*, to the King present.

No sooner did the King the Priests espy,
with a frowning Brow, and flaming Eye
on them fix'd; He to the Chief Priest brake
Mind, in Accents which Displeasure spake.

151
22

Hear now, said he, *Ahitub's Son* (whose Word
him again was, Here am I, my Lord)
Why hast thou with a *treasonable* Mind,
against thy Lord, with *Jesse's Son* combin'd?
Why Treason's plain. For first ye did *Conspire*
Death. Then thou didst of the Lord enquire,
What thereby He, to rise against me, might
bold'ned be, his Sov'reign Lord to smite.
Thou too didst with *Provisions* him supply,
What he, as now he doth, in wait might ly.
Thou into his Hand a *Sword* didst put,
What he my Head might from my Shoulders cut.
So spake the King (And more, perhaps, had spoke,
that his *Choler* did him almost choak.)
whom *Ahimelech*, with due respect,
turn'd an Answer, much to this Effect.

‘ May’t

1 Sam.
22. ‘ May’t please the King, what Service I have
‘ For David, was as David was thy Son;
‘ Thy Son-in-Law; who always freely went
‘ On whatsoever Service by thee sent;
‘ One, whom the King admitted to his Table
‘ And in thy House was always Honourable,
‘ Nor thought I any one more true to thee,
‘ Amongst thy great Retinue, than was he.
‘ So may he prove! If otherwise he be,
‘ His being so was never known to me.
‘ ’Twas in thy Bus’ness, that he said he came
‘ Nor had I him receiv’d: but in thy Name.
‘ Did I then *first* to seek the Lord begin
‘ For him, that this should now be made my Joy
‘ Have I not oft before for him enquir’d
‘ Yet ne’er before was Charg’d to have Consp^r, the
‘ From me far be it, c’er to entertain
‘ A Thought that may my Loyalty distain.
‘ And from the King far be it too, I pray,
‘ Unto his Servants Charge this thing to lay ev?

1500.
22.

er to my Father's House : for we are clear ;
and can our Innocency make appear.

God is my Witness, what I speak is true :
thy Servant of this Matter nothing knew.

to spake the reverend *Ahimelech*,

and with his last Words bow'd his aged Neck.

The other Priests, to shew they did agree

what he said, bow'd, ey'ry Man his Knee.

so just the Priest's Defence was, and so clear,

to the Standers by, did he appear;

at all the Courtiers ready were to shout

Joy : When, on a sudden, *Saul* broke out,

, with a Vehemence of Voice, did cry,

, thou *Ahimelech*, shalt surely die,

all thy Father's House. O cruel Word !

cruel Mind ! to be by all abhor'd.

hor'd it was : Each Courtier hung his Head ;

ev'ry Face grew Pale, which had been Red.

dismal Sentence did with Horror strike

Hearers : deep-fetch'd Sighs shew'd their dislike.

^{1 Sam.} A trembling Murmur at one Side began;
^{22.}

And, spreading, through the whole Assembly
Which ended in a Universal *Groan* ;
Enough to melt all Hearts, but those of Stone.

C H A P. III.

HOW miserable is the State of those,
Whose *Frame of Government* doth them ex-
To *Arbitrary Pow'r* ! Where Law's not know-
Nor any Man can call his Life his own !
Where Innocency is of little Force !
Because Impartial Justice hath no Course.
Where one Man's Rage keeps all the rest in
Whose *Will and Pleasure* are his only *Law* !

O how much *better* is their Case, who live
Under a *Constitution*, which doth give
To ev'ry Man, in Government, a Share :
And binds the *Whole* to have of *Each* a care.

1 S. m.
22.

ere even-handed Justice freely flows:

y r each the Laws, he must be try'd by, knows.

ere none, by Pow'r, can be oppres'd; because
tonc h Prince and People subject are to Laws.

ne there an *Arbitrary Sentence* fears;

ce none can be Condemn'd, but by his *Peers*:

ose common *Int'rest* doth them wary make,

w they their Fellow's Life away do take.

the same Sentence, wherewith they condemn
other, may be shortly turn'd on them.

se too th' accused Party may reject

heir *Indifferency* he suspect:

, ne'er so mean, may for his *Birth-Right* stand

Tryal, and *full Hearing* may demand.

in a rize your good Fortune, ye, whose Lot is fell

v! ler so good a Government to dwell.

live er no *Dispensing Pow'r* can make a Breach

on your Freedoms: nor your Persons reach.

all ye have, *Life, Liberty, Estate,*

care life by Law; which none can *abrogate*

^{1 Sam.} Without your own Consents. Be therefore wife
^{22.} And learn, so great a Benefit to prize.
 Look to 't: Be watchful, none, by any Wile,
 You of so rich a Jewel e'er beguile.

Ah! Had the Government of *Saul* been su
 He had not dar'd the *Priests* of *Nob* to touch, T
 Who never were, by *legal Proof*, convicted
 Of that, for which he on them Death inflicted, le
 Who had themselves from all Suspicion clear'd, ong
 And Blameless unto all, but him, appear'd. th s
 inst

But He, whose Lawless Will for Law was, Jone
 Resolving off those Innocents to cut; have
 Commands his Guards to turn, without delay, Alter
 Upon the *Priests* of God, and them to slay. Pale
 Adding (to Animate them thereunto).
 That these Men had with *David* had to do. Pales
 And that they *David's* Flight, altho' they knew
 Concealed had from him; and did not shew ready
 hbra

1 Sam.
22.

If on the Court so great a Terror came,
When he, before, the Sentence did but name.
How great a Consternation may't be thought,
Is Warrant for their Execution brought.
The Guards, who never durst, till now, dispute
Their Lord's Command, now stand amaz'd, & mute.
The Thought of such an impious Act them strook
With Trembling, and their palsied Fingers shook,
And let their Weapons fall: Nor was there One
Amongst them all (tho' threat'ned from the Throne
With stormy Frowns) that would extend an Arm
Against the Priests of God, to do them harm.

None, all this while, so unconcern'd did stand,
Nor did the Priests themselves: The King's Command
To have them slain (which made the rest to quake)
Alteration in their Looks did make:
No Paleness, no Dejection, did appear;
Which shew'd their guiltless Souls were free from Fear.
How ready Resolution had possess'd
A brave Contempt of Death, their peaceful Breast.

They

^{1 Sam.} They, in themselves, did feel the best Defence,
^{22.} Against a Tyrant's Threat'nings, Innocence.
 This kept their Spirits in an even mean ;
 With Countenance compos'd, and Minds serene.
 Thus standing, they the Lord their God invoke
 Prepared to receive the *Fatal Stroke.*

The more unterrify'd the King beheld
 The *Priests*, the more his Breast with Anger swel-
 He thought that they his Power did contemn :
 And, in himself, he vow'd Revenge on them.
 He Chaf't extreamly too, to think that he
 Should, by his Guards, no more regarded be.
 Then *Fury* boyling in him, to its Height,
 He singles out the brutish *Edomite*,
Doeg th' Informer ; and bid him to fall
 Upon the sacred Priests, and slay them all.

Not backwarder, the Yeoman of the Guard
 Themselves had shew'd (Men mostly rough & ha-
 Than forward he, *Saul's* Pleasure to fulfill :
 And strait a Sea of righteous Blood to spill.

Forth

1 Sam.
22.

thwith himself he to the Work addrest,
d in *Ahimelech's* unspotted Breast
thirsty Sword did sheath. The aged Sire
not Resist; did not a Foot Retire.
, with undaunted Resolution, stood
e Stroke; till in a Stream of Purple Blood,
Life expiring, to the Ground he press'd:
lorious *Pattern* leaving to the rest.
ey, without Terror, did his Death behold:
n: , by his brave *Example*, grew more bold.

! Had not cursed *Doeg* (the Disgrace
all Mankind, as well as *Edom's* Race)
n, in his Nature, savager, than were
e fiercest Beasts, committed to his Care:
e awful Aspect of *Ahimelech*,
l been enough, the *Ruffian's* Mind to check:
ose goodly Personage, and manly Face
uard unaffected *Gravity* did grace.
& his Beard, than Milk more white, unto his Breast
l: self extending, thereupon did rest.

awal the virgin F 3 And,

^{1 Sam.} And, in his *Sacerdotal Robes* attir'd,
^{22.} Was, worthily, both loved and admir'd.

But graceless *Doeg*, of a graceless Kind,
Bred among *Beasts*, to *Brutishness* inclin'd ;
By shedding Blood, more bloody-minded grew
And on the other Priests, with *Fury* flew.
They, undismay'd, themselves prepare to die;
Not one Resists, not one attempts to fly :
But, having God, whose Priests they were, implo'red
They yield their spotless Breasts to *Doeg's* Sword.
He, in their Blood, did bathe his reeking Blade,
And, on the soiled Earth, them breathless laid.
The *bloody Wretch* did them of Life bereave,
And, in their warm *Gore*, did them *weltring* lay
All Man by Man : Nor did he leave alive.
One Ephod-wearer, out of Eighty Five.

Thus fell the *Priests of God*. Thus bleeding
The *Tribe of Levi*; butcher'd in one Day :
Butcher'd by barb'rous Hands, without all Care,
Against Religion, Reason, Right and Laws.

This *Doeg* acted: but 'twas *Saul* that bid.

1 Sam.

22.

This *Saul* commanded: and this *Doeg* did.

The hard'ned King, having thus fed his Eyes,

With this, to him delightful, Sacrifice:

Carry on his *Vengeance* to the Height,

The City *Nob* too with the Sword did smite.

Living Soul in *Nob* his Fury left,

Whatsoever Breath'd, of Life bereft.

Women, Children, Oxen, Asses, Sheep,

Slaught'ring Sword, at once, away did sweep.

Bloody Act! on his part most *unjust*;

Laid done, to answer a revengeful Lust:

Just from God; who, his denounced * Will

* 1 Sam.

Against old *Eli's* House, did thus fulfill.

2. 23.

C H A P. IV.

^{1 Sam.} ^{23.} **W**HILE thus King Saul his Forces did imp^{ve} His well-deserving Subjects to destroy; Prince David (that not knowing) was intent, To The Sacking of rich Keilah to prevent.

To him, in Hareth-Forest, word was broug^{ht} That the fierce Philistins 'gainst Keilah fought And robb'd the threshing-Floors. His gen'rous^{ness} The To raise the Seige, and save the Town, inclin'd him to Forthwith he, therefore, of the Lord enquire^d Whose Answer added Life to his Desires. Most clear the Answer was: yet he was fain^d to His Men misdoubting, to enquire again. For they, who were in daily Fear that Saul, With all his Forces, would upon them fall; were loth, for others sakes, their Strength to And make themselves, for their Defence, more Ter

1 Sam.
23.

it when, the second time enquir'd, the Lord
more confirming Answer did afford ;
With Promise that, observing his Command,
I'd give the *Philistines* into their hand.

Our shaken off, they March, resolv'd upon't :
Employing their *Valiant Leader* in the Front.

To *Keilah* come, unlooked for by all,
On the *Philistines* did briskly fall ;
And with a dreadful Slaughter all did smite,
Though no saved not themselves by timely Flight.

The Seige thus rais'd, & *Keilah's Coasts* now clear'd
Linn'd from those ill Neighbours she so justly fear'd,
Quicke to the Town Victorious *David* entred
(For whose Deliv'rance he his Life had vent'red)
S. S fainting a Booty, which his Sword did win
From the defeated Host of *Philistin*.

Saul, he gladded *Keilites* all their Wits employ,
Fall; manifest their *Gratitude* and *Joy* :
How well they might, with *Civic Garland*, crown
more Temples, who from Spoil had sav'd their Town.

Encourag'd

^{1 Sam.}
^{23.} Encourag'd greatly with this good Success

Was *David*, and his Followers no less.

They joy together. But how meer a *Toy*,

How momentary, is all *Human Joy*!

This glimm'ring Glance of Sun-shine soon was pa-

And their *Horizon* blacker Clouds o'ercast.

The Triumph yet was hardly well begun,

When young *Abiathar*, *Ahim'lech's Son*

(Who from the Sword, by Providence, was f-

To propagate a Sacerdotal Seed)

Came panting in ; with Sweat besmear'd and D-

And, almost breathless, thro' the Concourse th-

To *David* come, with many a Sigh and So-

He tells the horrid Tragedy of *Nob* :

How the High-Priest, with all his Priestly Ta-

And ev'ry living Soul at *Nob* was slain.

Could you have seen, without a mournful Lo-

Poor *David* these amazing Tidings took ;

Ye would have doubted, whether in his Face

Astonishment, or *Grief* had greater Place.

Jeptha look'd, when, to his great Surprize,
Daughter met him for a Sacrifice.

1 Sam.
23.

The Suddenness and Strangeness of the Deed ;
Mischief in David, and Amazement breed.

Grief was equal : for he knew full well,
Mischie夫 on the Priests for his sake fell.

The Sense whereof did pierce his tender Breast
more deeply, than can be by Words exprest.

The Infants, with their Mothers, he laments :
All that he e'er saw Nob, too late repents.

The Priests too rigid Fate he doth bemoan
More helpless, than if their Fate had been his own.
All their Deaths bewails : but most his Grief
ounds for his Ahimelech, their Chief.

To whose Memory how much he ow'd,
Would not, he thought, more signally be show'd,
Than by Accumulating Favours on
Samar, his sole - surviving Son.

With kind Embraces therefore he doth cheer
down-cast Youth ; and bids him cast off Fear.

Affuring

^{1 Sam.} Assuring him that, since their common Fate
^{23.} Made them joint-Objects of *Saul's* causeless Hate
 He special Care would of his Safety take,
 Both for his own, and for his Father's sake:
 Whose well-deservings of him, he should find,
 Were deeply graven in a grateful Mind,

To *David* now Intelligence was sent,
 By some Well-wisher, That King *Saul* was bent
 To shut him up in *Keilah*; and, or take
 Him, or destroy the City for his sake.
 This made him lay all other Thoughts aside,
 And for his own Security provide.

Could *David* on the *Keilites* have rely'd,
 That they would have stood faithful to his side
 He durst have held the Town against the King,
 And all the Force he able was to bring.
 For *Keilah* was a Place of Strength; and more
 Had all Provisions, for a Seige, in Store.
 But, doubting how the Citizens might hold,
 Against the Force of Steel, or Pow'r of Gold;

to the Sacred Oracle did go,
Hate's Purpose, and the Keilites Faith to know.
The Answer was, *Saul will come down: and They,*
save themselves, *will Thee to him betray.*

1 Sam.
23.

This Answer, from the Oracle, receiv'd,
made David, of the Keilites Help bereav'd,
solv'd to lead his slender Band from thence,
s bend seek a Place, of more secure Defence.
durst himself and Men no longer trust
with them, who were too *fearful* to be *Just*:
well he knew, where pressing Fears prevail,
Charity and *Friendship* quickly fail.
grateful *Keilah* therefore he forsook,
d, and to the Wilderness himself betook:
s side the Wilderness of *Ziph*, where he might be
King (at least he hop'd so) from Betrayers free.

more were Noble *Jonathan* (whose virtuous Love,
greatest Dangers, did it self approve)
hold, secret Ways, to *David* did repair;
ld; whose Heart was almost overwhelm'd with Care.

Look

^{1 Sam.} Look how it doth a *drooping Lover* cheer
^{23.} To see the Object of his Love draw near :
So *David* (at the unexpected Sight)
Of *Jonathan*, his very Soul's Delight)
Forgetting all his Fears, and Sorrows past,
With gladsome Smiles his faithful Friend embrac'd
Who such Returns of hearty Love did make,
As well the Firmness of his Friendship spake.
Then to a shady *Pine* they jointly walk't :
And, 'twixt themselves, of *David's* Troubles tal-

No need had *David* now himself to moan :
His Friend knew how to make his Case his own.
He kindly to him spake, and had a Word
Of Comfort, to confirm him in the Lord.
Bid him not fear ; but in the Lord confide,
Who was (he could assure him) on his side.
Told him, the Lord would cover him, that he
Should never able be to make him fall.
And, *Prophet-like*, Foretold him that the Throne
Of *Israel* should one Day be his own :

d that himself should next unto him be.
Unhappy Man ! Who other's Fate could see,
(not his own.) Thus, having cheer'd his Friend,
Time requiring, They their Conf'rence end.
And then, before the Lord, they both renew
Their Covenant ; and, Kissing, bid Adieu.

1522.
23.

C H A P. V.

S, in the Winter, Show'rs and Storms succeed
To Sun-shine, which to Travellers do breed
More Toyl and Hardship, than the transient Smile
Sol gave Comfort, which they had e're-while:
After David's Heart had been made glad,
The kind Visit which he lately had.

In Storms arose ; his Troubles now grew more,
Dangers greater than they were before.

Was come out against him ; that he knew.
, with an Host ; His Followers but few.
Only wanted Knowledge where he lay :
Many ready were him to betray.

The

^{1 Sam.} ^{23.} The *pick-thank Zephites* (in whose untrod Wo
Th' afflicted Prince, with his Retinue, stood)
To curry Favour, hasten to the King ;
And where poor *David* was, glad Tidings bri
Engaging, If he came without delay,
They *David* would into his Hands betray.

Attentive Ears to all the *Zephites* told
The King did lend, and smoothly them cajoll
Bestow'd a graceless Blessing on them, and
Begg'd them to go again, and understand
More fully all his *Haunts*, and closely spy
The *lurking-Places*, where he us'd to ly,
And bring him Word : Away the *Zephites* p his f
But *David* had, mean while, forsook their C m:
And to the Wilderness of *Maon* gon :
The Plain that's on the South of *Jeshimon*. f to
This when *Saul* heard, he thither bent his C ou
Resolving to prevail by *Fraud*, or *Force* :
And was so near it, that he *David* found ;
And him, and all his Men, environ'd round.

Great was the Streight poor *David* now was in: ^{1 Sam:}
^{23.} great, he never had in greater been.

Hope to Conquer, nor no Way to fly :
thing remained, but to *Fight, or Die.*

A Messenger came panting in,
told the King, the bloody *Philistin*
had had the Land ; and all was lost
least, that lay upon the bord'ring Coast
els he came with Speed : Therefore, O King,
cry'd, make no delay ; Thy Forces bring
Save thy Land, and let the King make haft,
ere the Country be laid wholly Waft.

This startling Message made the King, with speed,
ir Concern : and *David* from his Danger free'd.

God sometimes, by unexpected Ways,
to his distressed Ones conveys ;
is Coming others upon them to fall,
would the *Righteous*, without *Cause*, exthrall.

is great Deliv'rance, with a thankful Heart,
God ascrib'd ; *David* doth thence depart,

G

And,

^{1 Sam.} And, with his little Band of Men, did he
^{24.} Unto the Fortresses of Engedi, hoveen er
A Place of greater Strength, and whence he mig
If over-press'd, secure himself by Flight:
Concluding right 'twould not be longe'er Sa
With greater Forces, would upon him fall.
His Expectation fail'd not: for the King,
The Philistine repell'd, doth with him bring
Three Thousand chosen Men; Men he had tr
In whose Fidelity he could confide;
And now himself, with pleasing Hopes, he fe
That he should David take, alive or dead.

But God, who oft on wicked Men doth b
The Hurts they plot, 'gainst others; did the
Cast single into David's Hands. Now He
Might, with one Stroke, himself for ever fr
From Saul's Pursuits. For Saul had, from his
Nature to easg, retir'd into a Den
(And laid his Royal Robe aside the while,
Lest in the Action he should it defile)

thinking *David* in the Cave had been,
that he had, by Human Eye, been seen.

1 Sam.
24.

Who, but a *David*, would have let his Foe,
such Advantage found, in Safety go!
small Temptation we may think 'twould be
David, now himself at once to free
m all his Troubles. On his Men him egg'd
give the Stroke; or let them give it, begg'd.

ut he, whose noble Breast was thoroughly fill'd
h loyal Principles, from Heav'n instill'd
ot liking too, in case he should succeed
th b o the Crown, his Subjects such a Deed
the President should have) with brave Disdain
de such a Fact, his Foll'wers did restrain.

et, that the King might sensible be made,
y causlessly he was of him afraid;
gently stept to where the Garment lay,
undiscerned, cut the Skirt away.

^{3 Sam.} Then drawing back, he waited till the King,
^{24.} His Robe resum'd, went forth; and following
 He, at a distance, well secur'd, did stand
 (Having the *Lappet* of the Robe in's Hand)
 And with *extended* Voice, but *humble* Speech,
 And *rev'rend* Gesture, did the King beseech
 To view the *Skirt*; an Evidence, quoth he,
 Of *Innocence* and *Loyalty* in me:
 For well thou mayst conclude, when I so near
 Unto thee was, unseen; I could my Spear
 As easily into thy Side have put,
 As from thy Garment I the *Skirt* did cut.
 But that thy Life, O King, to me was dear,
 In that I did not hurt thee, doth appear.

So well his *righteous* Cause did David plead
 (Having none else for him to intercede)
 So did he manifest his *Innocence*,
 So clear'd himself from all surmiz'd Offence;
 So earnestly upon the Lord did call,
 Judgment to give betwixt Himself and Saul:

g, at *Saul*, him hearing, did Confounded stand,
ingaz'd to see his *Skirt* in *David's* hand ;
the Sight of which convinc'd him, *David* could
the same time have slain him, if he would.
ch, 's satisfy'd him, that his Life he ow'd
n *David's* Mercy, which from Virtue flow'd.
e, Sense whereof made him first weep, then cry
you, *My Son David, art more just than I:*
near or thou, for all the *Evil* I have done
r to thee, hast me rewarded *well*, my Son.
that Man his Foe, at such Advantage found,
ould spare ! Thy Goodness doth to me abound.
ar, therefore the Lord reward thee good, I pray,
r thy great Kindness, shewn to me this Day.
adding, ' Now, behold, by this I know
plead the Israelitish Crown to thee shall go:
and that the Kingdom shall Establish'd be
thee, and thine, by Heavens just Decree.
nce; year therefore, said he, to me, by the Lord,
at thou wilt Mercy to my Seed afford:
Saul: and not, for my Offence, cut off the same;
t leave me, in my Father's House, a Name.

^{1 Sam.}
24.

His Title to the Kingdom *David* knew,
Better than *Saul*; and whence that Title grew:
Ev'n from the *sacred Oyl*, which, on his Head,
The *Prophet* had, by God's Appointment shed.
Wherefore, to humour *Saul*, he to him sware.
Which done, *Saul* straitway homeward did rep
But *David*, who too well the King did know
To trust him; up unto the Hold did go.

C H A P. VI.

^{1 Sam.}
25.

THE Prophet *Samu'el* now resign'd his Breſide
To God who gave it. To lament whose De *Him*
And, with a due Regard, to Solemnize,
In publick manner his sad *Obsequies*;
The *Israelites*, with one consent, did hie
To *Ramah*, where he liv'd, and was to lie.
And that the King, who lov'd to seem devout! St
Would give Attendance there, we need not duchi a

is gave poor *David* some few Days of ease, 1 Sim.
25..

w: d from his Fears did hitn a-while release.

To *Pieran* now, new Quarters seeking, he
re. mov'd his little Camp from *En-gedi*:
rep: m Wilderness to Wilderness; where still
ow get Provisions would require some Skill.

Here, Wants encreasing, he to Mind did call,
t, when before he hither fled from *Saul*,
re liv'd a *Wealthy Miser* on that Coast,
o of his great Possessions us'd to boast.

Besides a *Thousand Goats*, *Three Thousand Sheep*
se *Hinds*, in *Carmel*, constantly did keep.

Great a *Flock* must many Hands employ
any a *lusty Man*, and *sturdy Boy*)
keep, and *shear the Sheep*, and *wind the Wool*.
lie. would a little keep their Bellies full.
evout Store of Victu'als therefore must be dress'd,
ot such an House; although there were no *Guest*:

^{1 Sam.} Which yet were wont good Neighbourhood to sh^o th u
^{25.} And to each other's Sheep-shearings to go. long
en cl

This *David* well considering, and hearing
That this rich Neighbour had begun Sheep-sheari^b by P
Thought it a proper time for him to try,
Whether his *Wealth* was mixt with *Charity*.
Choosing out therefore Ten young Men, who^w thus
Of his Retinue, them he bid prepare^{Naba}
To go to *Nabal* (for that was the Name
Of this rich Man) and when to him they cam^{scor}
They, in their Master's Name, should him fal^{Son}, n
In such Terms as might best his Humour suit^{self}
Wish *Peace*, said he, to him, his House, and^{wou}
Whate'er he doth possess, both Great and Smal^{vision}
Then give my Service to him: Tell him, I, give
Who might Command, entreat his *Courtesy*. in whi
Which to excite, put him in Mind, That we^w le
From doing Hurt to him, or his, are free. his su
For Proof of which we boldly dare appeal^{t they}
To his own Seryants: May but he so deal^{pressi}
with

th us, as we by them have dealt, while they
long us fed his Flocks from Day to Day.
en close your Message thus, *Since we are come*
good Day; Give us, we pray thee, some
ari *Provisions: that thy Servants may*
Blessing to David, thy Son, convey.

15am.
25.

ow thus David's Servants, unto Carmel come,
Nabal spake. But he, with Aspect grum,
scornful Tone; said, *Who is David! - Who,*
cam *Son of Jesse!* Many Servants do
falk, now a-days, each from his Lord, that he
suit himself may, from his due Obedience, free.
and would you have me take my Bread and Meat,
Sma visions for my Guests, and Men, to eat)
, I give them unto such, as I nor know
ff. whence they came, nor whither they will go!
e. his surly Answere did the Men so scare,
real at they (like modest Beggars, as they were)
al pressing further, to their Lord return:
with the Answere, make his Spirits burn.

For

^{1 Sam.} For he no sooner heard, with what despight,
^{25.}

The brutish *Clown* his just request did flight ;
But, in a high *Resentment* of th' *Affront*,
(And *Resolution* to take *Vengeance* on't)
He to his *Soldiers* forthwith gave the Word,
Arm, Arm with speed : And, girding on his *Sword*,
Drew forth *Four Hundred* ; which he thought enough
(Leaving the rest to guard the Camp and *Stuff*)
And with a *stormy Mind*, and *Martial Heat*,
March'd on, bestowing many a direful *Threat*
On *Nabal* ; who must now not single fall :
But he, and his own *Family* withall.

In vain, said *David*, have I safely kept
This Fellow's *Flocks*, while he securely slept.
He might a *civil Answer* sure have sent,
If he, to part with nothing, was so bent.
I'll take such *Venge'nce* on th' ungrateful Wretch,
That others may from him Example fetch.

While thus enraged *David* made such hast to have
Nabal to slay, and his whole *House* lay waste, al's f
Proprietary

pitious Providence, whose piercing Eye
; all Mens Deeds, and Thoughts too, from on high,
with a secret, over-ruling Arm,
well from Doing, as Receiving Harm,
h his preserve: did now contrive a way,
wo id, from shedding guiltless Blood, to stay.
nou n means too oft, through *stupid* Ignorance,
tuf futed are to *Accident*, or *Chance*,
thoughtless Men: though others clearly see
eat y are th' Effects of a divine Decree.
ich oft through *Instruments* are brought to pass;
this, whereof we now are speaking, was.

or *Nabal*, though himself a *Fool*, or *Mad*
ept. e'en his very Name imports) yet had
well-accomplish'd Wife, *discreet* and *wise*,
spoken, full of *vertuous* Qualities:
Wre oft her Husband's *Rudeness* did bewail,
h. seek to hide: Her Name was **A BIGAIL**.

ast to her a Servant (who had seen and heard
ast al's foul Carriage; and justly fear'd
opit

The

^{1 Sam.} The dire Effects of't) haft'ned, to th' intent,
^{25.} That she, forewarn'd, the Mischief might preve

Mistress, said he, *David*, to whom, we know
 The Safety of our selves and Flocks we ow;
 Who hath so kind a Neighbour been, that, sinc
 He came to live among us, a Defence
 He hath been to us, both by Night and Day,
 Securing us from Thieves, and Beasts of Prey
 This *curteous* Prince hath to our Master sent
Ambassadors, both with a *Complement*
 Of *Gratulation*, and a small Request;
 That he'd admit him (as an *absent* Guest)
 To be *Partaker*, in some sort at least,
 Of the Abundance of his Shearing-Feast.

But oh! our Master, who, thou know'st too well
 Is so ungovern'd, that if one but tell
 A civil Message to him, He will fall
 Foul on him, like a Son of Belial.
 So did he now at *David's* Men let fly
 A rude *Invective*, full of *Railery*

against their Master, and them back hath sent
every body of Food: but full of *Discontent*.

1 Sam.
25.

Consider therefore, *Mistress*, what to do,
the diverting the impending Blow:
Evil, if not stop't, is like to fall
upon our *Master*, and, through him, us all.

Not without great Surprize, we may suppose,
attentive Dame did hear such Words as those:
which she had reason to believe were *true*;
she too well her Husband's Temper knew.
being of a well-composed Mind
all Men just, and to her Husband kind)
did not think it was a proper Season,
him, of his ill Carri'age, then to reason:
make all hast she could, to go, and try
the Injur'd Prince could pacify.

Her Husband therefore not consulted, she
present took of what might likely be
gain Acceptance, [Bread, Wine, Flesh well drest,
Raisins, Parched-Corn] all of the Best,

Ag

In

15m. In good Proportion; which, on Asses laid,
25. She sent before her: and, for hast, ne'er staid
 Her self to deck; but, in her common Dres,
 Sped after, bending to the Wilderness.

As down the Hill she rode, her watchful E
 Did *David*, with his Men descending, spy
 From th' adverse Hill: at equal Distance set,
 They, in the interjacent Valley, met.

Come near to *David*, from her Ass she leapt
 And, with submissive Look, first forward stept
 A Pace, or two: then Prostrate at his Feet
 Lying awhile; Him thus, at length, did g

‘ On me, my Lord, I pray, on me let ly
 ‘ The Punishment for this *Iniquity*.
 ‘ Let not my Lord this Man of *Belial* heed,
 ‘ *Nabal*; whose Name and Nature are agree
 ‘ So well, that by his Name is well express
 ‘ The Folly which doth in his Bosom rest.

regard him not. But let thine Handmaid stand
wixt him and thee ; subject to thy Command,
et give me leave, I pray, to speak a Word,
Word in season, to my honour'd Lord :
which shall be nothing but the Truth ; that so
you mayst the right State of the Matter know.
For of a Truth, my Lord, I did not see
the Messengers that came to Him from thee :
nor of the Matter did one Tittle hear,
till they were gone : and then both Shame & Fear
did spur me on, to hasten to my Lord,
and bow my Neck unto thy righteous Sword.
like, if thou please : Yet give me leave to say,
the Lord will thee avenge another way.
in not thine Hand with Blood, but to the Lord
for thy Cause ; who can, without thy Sword,
venge thy Wrongs ; May who seeks ill to thee,
in like Case as *Nabal* soon will be.
And when she had knoyed by thyself, that all his boorish
neighbours were humbly offering him the things she brought ;
Present to accept her him besought.

And

^{1 Sam.} And raising her Discourse to higher things;
^{25.}

(Such as concern'd the *Kingdom*) home she bring'd
The Matter to himself: and thus apply'd
The Case to him; as if she Prophesy'd.

‘ Because, my Lord, thou dost his Battles fight’

‘ The Lord of Hosts in thee doth take delight’

‘ He'll make thee a *sure House*, wherein to dwelt’

‘ And set thee on the *Throne of Israel*.’

‘ Thy Head shall wear the Israelitish Crown,’

‘ And thou shalt live and die in high Renowm.’

Then, giving *Saul* some *not unwelcome Blows*,

She thus to *David* her Discourse did close.

‘ When thou haft found the Lord deal well with thee.’

‘ Remember that it was foretold by me.’

This said, she stopt. But not before the Lord
Had *David* quite disarm'd (*Not of his Sword,*
But) of his *Anger*, and that hot Displeasure,
Which, in his Breast, had boyl'd beyond due Measure.
He now is chang'd: His *Heat* is now allay'd,
And, looking on fair *Abigail*, he said,

‘

Blest be the God of *Isra'el*, who this Day
<sup>1 Sam.
25.</sup>
brought thee to meet, and stop me on the way.
Blessed be thy Advice: and blessed be
you too, for giving it. Whereby thou me
fought hast from shedding Blood; which I
do, had'st thou not come, was very nigh.
did the Injury too high Resent:
d, to Revenge as high, was fully bent.
wn, at now from Thoughts of Violence I cease,
now, and gladly send thee back again in Peace.
WS, return, fair Dame, return: for I rejoice,
at I have heard, and heark'ned to thy Voice
ith thy Vertues good Impressions in me leave;
I thy Present gratefully receive.

My wise Behaviour hath Atonement made,
the Offence thy Husband's Rudeness laid.
parting, He unto his Camp retir'd;
to her House: He, Her; She Him admitt'd.

1 Sam.
25.

C H A P. VII.

WHEN Abigail was gotten Home, she fo
Nabal kept open House; All things abo
Ev'n to Profuseness: such a *lavish* Feast,
As might have Entertain'd a Royal Guest.
The Wine so freely flow'd, and He the Cup
So often took; so often turn'd it up:
That He, who was the Master of the Feast,
Had now transform'd himself from *Man* to *Beggar*:
He had so freely guzz'led down the Wine,
That he lay *snoring*, like a drunken *Swine*.

This was no time to speak to him. But when
Next Morn, his *little Sence* return'd agen;
She, in due order, did to him relate
The *Danger* he had scap'd: how near his Ga
David's devouring *Sword* had been; How ne
They all had been unto a *Massacre*,

ſt ready to be flaught'erd, and all long
his *rude* Carri'age, and *abusive* Tongue.

1 Sam.
25.

This he no sooner heard, but strait the Thought
Danger, he upon himself had brought
(though now he knew 'twas over) struck a Dart
to his *mean*, and *too unmanly* Heart.

Spirits sank : and in ſome Ten Days time,
Note by the Lord, his Life went for his Crime.

So great a Man, fo ſtrange a Death, fo near
David's Camp, muſt quickly reach his Ear.
Which when he heard, he bleſt the Lord, that he
both from *Self-avenging* kept him free :
also had, by an immediate Stroke,
ended his Cause ; and *Nabal's* Heart had broke.

When recollecting what a *goodly* Dame
with *Beauty, Wisdom, Virtue, Youth and Fame*
(burned) *Abigail* to him appear'd,
Then (to divert the Storm ſhe justly fear'd)

^{1 Sam.} She, as a *Suppliant*, the other Day,
^{25.}

Although with Tears bedew'd, before him lay
Love kindled in his Heart a *Noble Flame*,
With warm Desir'es after the *lovely Dame*.
Wherefore he forthwith did to her dispatch
Ambassadors to treat an happy Match
Between them; Let her know how *chast* a *Fa*
Possest his Breast, and Court her in his Name
Conduct her safe, that she might be his *Wife*,
Partaker of his Fortunes, during Life.

The Message told: Wife *Abigail*, who knew
How Great, how Good, how Wise, how Just, how
Prince *David* was; How Pious and how De
To God, and also to the *Crown* how near;
Did not take State upon her, nor require
Time to Consider, and be Courted higher.
But, by an humble Phrase, express Consent;
And mounting, well attended, with them w
To *David*, who, with Joy, did her receive:
And each, in Heart, did to the other cleave.

About this time too, or not long before,
David (who long had been afflicted sore
by loss of *Michal*; and now hopeless grown,
that he should e'er enjoy her as his own)
marri'd *Ahinoam*, a goodly Dame,
Jezreel, who out of *Judah* came,
that he now was doubly Wiv'd, and might
in their sweet Conversation take delight.

1 Sam. 25.

At once possessed was the Princely Boy,
Brother's Beauty, and of Father's Joy.
Brother's Beauty couch'd was in the Name
the most beauteous Jezreeliteish Dame.
Father's Joy in *Abigail* did found;
whom whatever could raise Joy was found.
made him *Michal's* Absence better bear;
ploy'd by Two, so vertuous, and so fair.
her, her Father (that he more might vex
David, and his State the more perplex);
to another giv'n; and did constrain
unwilling Dame her Nuptial Bed to stain.

^{1 Sam.} O Impio'us Man ! who gave her for a Snare
^{25.}

^{* 1 Sam.} To David (as he stuck not to declare *)

^{18.} 21. Which she not proving : In *revengeful* Rage,
 He to another did her soon engage.

C H A P. VIII.

^{1 Sam.} **A** Time of Rest had *David* had, while ^{Sau}
^{26.} Had been attending *Samuel's* Funeral.
 A time of Joy ; wherein he might, at leisure,
 Refresh himself with undisturbed Pleasure.
 But now his Troubles hasten on again :
 And he must now repeat his former Pain.
 He now for self-Defence had need prepare,
 Lest *Saul* be on him e're he be aware.

For *Saul* no sooner was to *Gibeah* got,
 But the false Zephites thither to him trot ;
 Inform him, *David* doth near them reside,
 And in their Woods himself, and Men, doth li

er their Service, urge the forward King
come; and with him Strength enough to bring.

1 Sam.
26.

This Invitation, added to the Fire
Saul's own Breast, kindled so strong Desire
taking *David*; that he forthwith rose
in *Gibe'ah*, and in quest of *David* goes:
ding *Three Thousand* with him, Men well-try'd,
iant and Strong; in whom he could confide.
He into the Woods of *Ziph* did draw,
pitched in the Hill of *Hachittah*.
David, mean while, informed by his Scouts,
t Saul lay Camped somewhere thereabouts,
nt, in the Ev'ning forth, a View to take
Saul's great Host, and Observations make.

ome to the Camp, he saw where Saul did ly,
in the Trench, His Spear just sticking by
Bolster; and a *Cruſe of Water* near,
Thirst to quench, and Spirits also cheer.

1 Sam. 26. This seen, and he not seen, strait back he goes.

Fetches *Abishai*: unto whom he shows
Saul, *Abner*, all the Soldiers fast a-sleep;
No *Centinel* awake, the Watch to keep.

Fain would *Abishai* strike the fatal Stroke,
Which should have *David* freed from *Saul's* hard
Full hard he begg'd, that *David* would give him
He, with one Blow might *Saul* of Life bereave'd.

But Noble *David* (in whose gen'rous Breast
Loyal and pious Principles did rest) *remonstrates*
Flatly forbade it; saying, *God forbid*.
That I should so my self from Trouble rid.
The Lord forbid, that I mine hand should strike
Against the Lord's Anointed. Such a Wretch
May I never be! I'll leave him to the Lord, By the
Who works by vario'us Ways, besides the sword
But take, said he, his Water-Pot and Spear:
By which my Innocency may appear.

That, undiscov'red, done ; they strait Retire ^{1 Sam.} _{26.}

a safe standing, whence (the Ground being higher) they might be seen, and heard. *David* doth call aloud to *Abner*, *Saul's* brave Generall.

waking, said, Who's that, whose Tongue doth ring shrill ? Speak softly : lest thou wake the King.

Al! Art not thou a valiant Man ? But where, David, is thy Vigilance and Care :

there came One unto the King's Bed-side whom none of all your Centinels descry'd) whom the King might have been slain, if I had not him sav'd. Who now deserves to die ? And that the Truth thereof may plain appear, Hold here his Cruse of Water, and his Spear.

By this time *Saul*, awaking with the Noise, startling at the sound of *David's* Voice,

Is it thou, my Son ? Yes, yes, it is,

David : wherein have I done amiss ?

ce I to thee, O King, am always true :

y? O why dost thou thus my Life pursue?

If

^{1 Sam.} If thou thus Hunt'st me by the Lord's Command
^{26.}

May he accept an Off'ring at my Hand !
But if this Mischief, by the Sons of Men,
Be rais'd against me, then, I say, O then
Curs'd of the Lord be they ! for lo ! they strive
Me from the Heritage of God to drive :
Bidding me, to serve other Gods, be gone.
Yet I resolve to serve the Lord alone.

Wherefore I trust the Lord preserve me shall,
That to the Earth my Blood may never fall.
How mean a thing it is, That *Isra'el's* King
An armed Host into the Field should bring,
To seek a *Flea* ! Are Men of Wisdom wont,
With Armies, after *Partridges*, to hunt !
No greater I, than these, may counted be,
If I, great Prince, compared am to thee

Not more did *David's Rhetorick* prevail
On *Saul*, than that which never us'd to fail
With Him, and such as He, the fight of's Sp
In *David's* Hand : whereby he knew how nea

aid to him had been; whil'st, fast a-sleep,
^{1 Sam.}
ay at David's Mercy (none to keep
Stroke off from him) who might, with one Blow,
e sent his Soul down to the Shades below;
did not hurt him. This the better Part
Saul's ill Nature reach't: and in his Heart
lled a Spark of *Gratefulnes*; from whence
ng an *Acknowledgement* of his Offence.
kly, as once before, in like Distress,
Error, Folly, Sin He doth confess.

my Son *David*, sinned have, said He;
g thy Pardon: Pray, Return to me.
well I know, That I have play'd the *Fool*,
broke the Precepts taught in Vertues School,
never more will I against thee rise:
use my Life was precious in thine Eyes.

the Lord, said *David*, once again had put
Sp in my Pow'r. I eas'ly might have cut
near Thread asunder. God so deal with me,
have *Faithful* been, and *Kind* to thee.

When

^{1 Sam.} When David ceas'd, Saul did his Blessing give
^{26.}

Wishing He in Prosperity might live.
Then parting, Saul returned to his Place:
And David to his Camp directs his Pace.

He turned off and went to the south,
and did in his Absent service him
soothly right and wrong to do.
O all ye neighbouring Kings, be it
knowne that David did much to you
and did much to you.

The End of the SECOND Book.

DAVID

A VIDE IS.

BOOK III.

CHAPTER I.

Ong had the Hebrew Common-Wealth been torn ^{1 Sam.}

By Civil Jars, since first the sacring Horn
David's Head, from Rev'rend Samuel's Hand,
emptie'd been, by God's express Command.

While the tall Son of Kish, with armed Force
Airt (the Flow'r of Isra'els Foot and Horse)
at nothing unattempted, to bring down

He's young Son, the Rival of his Crown:

He's young Son, who therefore perish must,
Because he was Great, Valiant, Wise and Just.

Who

^{1 Sam.} Who can recount the Jeopardies, which he
^{27.}

Was daily in, while he was fain to flee
From Cave to Rock ; from one Hold to another
And Safety for his aged Sire and Mother
In Moab seek ; Himself enforc't to fly
To Achish, Isra'el's utter Enemy !
Who the great Philistin so lately flew,
Is glad now to a Philistin to sue
For Shelter ; driven, by Domestick Foes,
To beg, from Foreign Enemies, Repose.
Adullam, Mezpeh, Hareth, Keilah, Ziph,
En-gedi, Paran, and the craggy Cliff
Of *Hachilah*, the Rocks, where wild Goats b
Witness the Hardships born by Jesse's Seed.

A Sabbath now of Years was fully run,
Since David's causeless Troubles first begun;
When the Almighty, having thoroughly prov'd
The Faith and Love, of him he thoroughly lov'd
Said, 'Tis enough ! And with that Word declar'd
The Means, whereby his David should be fr

The *Philistins* again invade the Land,
The tall, but *trembling* King is at a stand.
From God departed, He of God is left,
Counsel, and of *Courage* both, bereft.
At Course, in this so great a Streight, to steer
Wist not; 'twixt *Necessity* and *Fear*.

1 SAM.
28.

The *Prophet*, from whose Heav'en-inspired Breast,
That self did use to flow, was gone to Rest.
Nor by *URIM* did, in that Extream,
Be it safe to give an Answer, nor by *DREAM*;
Though sought unto. *In vain doth man expect*
W'rance by the Hand he doth reject.

Deserted thus of God, the *faithless* King
Himself into the *Devil's Arms* doth fling;
She sculps a *Witch*, and her employs to raise
The *Prophet Samuel*; who many Days
With his Fathers slept. O blinded Wretch!
I think a *Silly Witch* had Pow'r to fetch
The *decreed Prophet* from his *peaceful Rest*;
For Devils, after Death, could *Saints* molest.

Yet

1 Sam. 28. Yet by the *Apparition*, which she brought,
Was *Saul* of his approaching Ruin taught;
And found it true. The *Philistines* prevail,

1 Sam. 31. And *Isra'el* both of Strength and Courage fail.
They fly. The King (his Sons first slain) imbr
In his own Blood; and close at Heels pursu'd:
(Lest by th' *Uncircumcis'd* he be abus'd,) le St
Bids his own *Squire* dispatch him; He refus'd.
Despair then prompting, on his Sword he fell.
'Twas just: for he did against God rebell.

Such was the End of *disobedient Saul*,
Whom God, to *hansell Israel's Crown*, did Cal
For not performing God's express Command,
Perish he must: And that by his own Hand. ne gre
He that spar'd *Agag*, doom'd by God to Deat
With his own Hand, lets out his vital Breath. hath
Monarchs, beware. Let this great *Monarch's* R can o
For ever be a Warning to you all. ad the
e to A

C H A P. II.

WHILE this so great Discomfiture befell,
For their King's sake, the Host of *Israel* ;
Hyste-
rofis.
Streams of reeking Blood did float the Plain,
Gilboa was loaded with the slain :
all-commanding Providence took Care,
his *Anointed Prince* should not be there :
by an extraordinary Way,
him from *Danger*, and from *Guilt* that Day.

The great Disposer of all human Things,
at his Pleasure, makes, and unmakes Kings ;
hath the Hearts of Princes in his Hand,
can our Foes, to be our Friends, command ;
had the Heart of *Gath*'s fierce King inclin'd
to *David*, in Affliction, kind.

^{1 Sam.} Achish did Ziklag unto David give,
^{27.}

Where He, with his Retinue, safe might live:
Heap'd Favours on him, promis'd great Reward
No less than to be Captain of his Guards.

^{1 Sam.} But he must to the Battle with him go,
^{28.}

And help to give his King an Overthrow.

How great a Streight must David now be in
Having no other Choice, than Death, or Sin!
Death, if he should refuse to Fight: And Sin! (God)
If he 'gainst Israel fought for Philistin.
Thus sorely Exercis'd, it may be ghest,
Such Thoughts as these might fill his troubled Br.

How can I draw my Sword against my King, Thralde
And not upon my self the Odis'm bring
Of foul Rebellion? I, who never durst
Attempt his Life; although he sought mine at Day
I dare not (knowing him by God appointed) old ev
Stretch forth mine Hand against the Lord's Ano
I well remember how my Heart me smote, at yet
When I but cut the Skirt from off his Coat. in Ach

What may I then expect, but Wrath Divine,
He should fall by any Stroke of mine!

1 Sam.
28.

But say, the King were safe: Yet how can I,
whose Sword hath *Troops* of *Philistins* made fly;
who bought my *Michal* with the leche'rous Skins
four times Fifty slaught'red *Philistins*:
who the daring'st *Champio'n* of their Crew
(they looking on) in single Combat slew;
(God assisting) with a single Sling,
Wrance did unto my Country bring:
I now for the *Philistins* go Fight,
draw my Sword against an *Isra'elite*!
I go help God's Heritage to bring
Thraldom to th' uncircumcised King!
I, upon my self, contract the Guilt
all the Isra'elitish Blood; which spilt
Day may be! The Lord forbid that I
should ever yield to such a Villany.

And
note, but yet, If I refuse my Men to lead
Achish to the Field: Nor yet can plead

^{1 Sam.} A fair Excuse; what can I think, but He
^{28.} Will thenceforth treat me as his Enemy!
 What can I then expect for me, and mine,
 But *present Death!* Or that he will Confine
 Us to some *loathsome Dungeon*, untill
 He may us, with more lingring Torments, kill.

Shall I, this Mischief to prevent, comply
 With his Commands, at least wise *seemingly!*
 Shall I unto my present Fortune yeild;
 And briskly draw my Forces to the Field!
 Shall I, with *Achisb*, to the Battle go;
 As if I were to *Israel* a Foe:
 Then, when the Battle's joined, *wheel about*,
 And help to give the *Philistins* a *Rout*!
 No! That were *base*: And I had rather dy,
 Than stain mine Honour with such *Trecher*.
 Exil'd from mine own Land, I hither fled,
 To seek a Shelter for my hunted Head.
 I found a *kind Reception* with this Prince:
 And in his *Favour* I have stood e'er since.

Bounty hath to me extended been,
less than if I were a *Philistin*.
me he doth repose a *special Trust* :
d God forbid I should be *less than Just* !
grateful, to a Proverb, I should be,
k should I betray him to his Enemy.
y rather choose ! than such an *Infamy*
y David, on an *Israelite* should ly.

1 Sam.
28.

While *David* thus did many Thoughts revolve,
! knowing what, with Safety to resolve :
e, in the *Rere*, with *Achisb* on to go,
d wait on God, for Counsel what to do ;)
t, the God of *David* his Deliv'rance wrought,
d from that Service fairly off him brought.

The *Princes* of the *Philistins*, to whom
ed, their King's new *Favourite* was now become
Eye-sore ; not well pleas'd before, to see
art-Favours heap'd upon a *Refugee* :
d now, observing, that their easie King
t only *David*, and his Men, did bring

^{1 Sam.} _{28.} To Battle, but had Rang'd them by his Side,
 As if in them He chiefly did Confide ;
 Their *Emulation* could no longer hide,
 But, with a discontented *Murmur*, cry'd,
What do these Hebrews here ! The King would
 Their Discontents allay : but try'd in vain.
 The more he *David's* Courage, Conduct, prais'd
 The more against him he their *Choler* rais'd.
 Their Wrath brake forth. *This Fellow make,* said they,
Return unto his Place ; lest he betray
Us, in the Heat of Fight : and, by that Wile,
Himself unto his Master reconcile.
 For, by what means, can he procure his *Pearl* appre-
 With *Saul*, so well as by the Heads of these ? To
 Command him therefore back : for surely know,
He shall not, with us, to the Battle go.
 They stoutly urge. The King is fain to yeild living
 And *David* forthwith is dismis't the Field.
 Thus God, when he his *Saints* hath throughly try'd
 Can unthought *Ways* for their *Escape* provide.

C H A P. III.

JOY now abounding in his *thankful Heart*,

I Sim.
30.

Jesse's fair Son doth from the Camp depart:

Towards Ziklag, with a nimble Pace,

And towards the Churches; his loyal *Consorts* to Embrace.

But, e're the Sun thrice set, his Joy was check't,
A *Disaster* he did least expect.

Approaching near the Place, where stood the Town,
Town he could not see: for It was down.

Down to the Ground was it in *Ashes* laid:

All that was therein away convey'd.

Living Soul was left, that might inform

Who were the Authors of this dismal Storm,

Who can conceive the Horror that possess't,

That surprizing Sight, poor *David's* Breast!

^{1 Sam. 30.} Senseless he stood, like one that's struck with Thunder,
 Fill'd with Astonishment, and silent Wonder.
 His Blood retiring to his trembling Heart,
 Left a cold Sweat upon each outward Part.
 Heart-rending Sorrows did, without controul,
 Imprison all the Powers of his Soul.
 Grief forc't a Vent at last, and out did pour,
 Thorow his fainting Eyes, an easing Show'r.
 Tears flow'd amain : He wept, until the Store
 Of Tears was spent ; and he could weep no more.

When Sighs did Passage to his Grief afford, and in
 And Speech was to his faltering Tongue restor'd. Blood
 He more obdurate must have been, than Stomach fit
 Whose Heart had not been tend'red with his Nettle living
 The Loss of Ziklag something was ; much more his Right
 That of the People, with their wealthy Stores of flattery
 But, with the deepest Groans, he did bewail his just
 His lost Ahinoam and Abigail.
 His Sorrows to compleat, his little Host
 (For there was no Man that had nothing long he kept)

were at the Point to Mutinee, and fall,
With Stones, upon their guiltless Generall.

1 Sam.
30.

His Reason now did to return begin,
Out of that Stupor Grief had plung'd it in ;
And calling back, with nimble Diligence,
Spirits, and his Intellectu'al Sence :
Piety did first it self exert ;
Token of a right-Religious Heart.

Fear, *Bane of noble Actions*, off he shakes,
And in the Lord, his God, *fresh Courage* takes.
Blood enkindles, and his Spirits boyld
With strong Desire to regain the Spoyl,
His living Spoil, (If Life did yet remain
In his Rap'd Consorts, and their living Train.)
flaming Eye sparkles an angry Threat,
And just Revenge his active Pulses beat.

Let would he not on this Adventure move,
How long he had try'd how God would it approve.

How

^{1 Sam.} How Happy should we be! How would Success Da
^{30.} Crown all our Actions! How would God us bles
 If, in whatever we do undertake, Zikl
 We first the Lord our Counsellor would make. w

The Priest is call'd. The sacred Ephod broug
 And, in his own Way, is God's Counsel sough
 The Answer is propitio'us. Out he went, Men
 With his Six Hundred Men. Two Hundred, f
 With their hard March, were of the rest forsoe have
 Not able to get over Besor-Brook.

Not far had David, with the rest, advanc'd, Ly
 When an Egyptian, in the Field, they chanc'd Cap
 To find; who, being sick, and Hunger-pin'd moak
 Was by those sacking Rovers left behind.
 By him (refresh'd first with long-wanted Food ne
 And Speech recovering) they understood Eart
 That their Old Enemy, th' Amalekite, Bloo
 It was, had done them this so great Despise of the
 By him too (Oath of Safety first be'ing give'n twic
 Oaths then were lawfule, by the God of Heav'n nted

as David guided to the Place, where they,
left joyful Merriment, securely lay.

1 S. m.
30.

Ziklag's Dainties they a Feast had made,
With their Plunder, drove a merry Trade.

Eating They to Dancing fell, and Drinking ;
soon they must the Reck'ning pay, not thinking,
Men upon them, like a Thunder-Show'r.

Have you observ'd in what a furious Way,
yon leaps upon his trembling Prey :
In th' Amalekites the Hebrews flew,
Lyons fiercer ; having in their View
Captiv'd Wives and Children, and the Fire
smoking Ziklag, to inflame their Ire.

For all next Days Evening the Slaughter held.

Earth with slain was cover'd Rivers swell'd
With Blood of Amalek, that thither ran.
Of them all there scaped not a Man,
twice two Hundred, who (perhaps, by Night)
slept on Camels, sav'd themselves by Flight.

During

1 Sam. During the time this *bloody Work* did last, Am.
 30. The *Captiv'd Dames*, with Hands and Eyes up-
 the
 Implor'd the God of *Israel* to bless
 The Arms of their Deliverer with Succes. their
 But when destroy'd they saw their Enemies, com v
 Their *thankful Joy* brake through their *sparkling Eyes*, all th
 And, as ANDROMEDA, when, from her Chair
 Releas't, she saw the *frightful Monster* slain:
 So look't *Ahinoam*, so *Abigail*,
 When they their dearest *David* saw prevail.

The Slaughter over, and the Field now clear, □W
 So that no living Enemy appear'd; V
 The *Victors*, and their *new-redeemed Dames* □ mo
 (Those *Love*, These *Love* and *Gratitude* inflam
 Together run, with nimble-footed Paces, □ men o
 And clasp each other, in most sweet Embrace, □ birth o
 When they had paid the Debt long due to Love fr
 The *Hebrew Captain* did from thence remove, □ wi
 And toward Ziklag took again his way, □ He to
 With his recov'red Spoyl, and the rich Prey □ at of

Amalek. To Besor-Broak they bend,
Where his recruited Men did him attend.
them, as to the rest, he doth divide
their Share o' th' Booty; and to Ziklag hy'd:
From whence he, of the Spoyl, unto his Friends,
All the Coasts about, rich Presents sends.

1 Sam.
30.

C H A P. IV.

WO Days in Ziklag now had David stay'd, ^{2 Sam.}
Viewing the Ruins which the Fire had made.
Most his Thoughts on Isra'el's Camp did run,
Inflaming the worst; not knowing what was done:
Then on the Third, Lo, one with Running spent,
Dust on his Head, and all his Garments rent)
Lo me from the Camp, and falling at his Feet,
O'erjoy'd, with good News, as he suppos'd, him greet.

He told, how Israel from the Battle fled;
That of the Souldiers there lay many dead:

That

2 Sam. That *Saul*, and *Jonathan* his Son, were slain.
 At those great Names, *David* could not refrain
 But forthwith ask't him, By what means he knew
 What he reported of *Saul's* Death was true.
He, hoping some Advantage would accrue,
 Confes't that he, at his Request, him flew:
 And to Confirm the Truth of what he said,
Saul's Crown and Bracelett at his Feet he laid.

As one that, stooping something up to take, or F
 Claps his unwary Hand upon a *Snake*,
 Doth, with the sudden Fright, first backward mourn
 (His scared Blood retiring to his Heart) friends
 Then, at a further Distance, trembling stands, mortal
 With fainting Countenance, and Palsied Hand, close
 So startled *David* at th' unlookt for Sight oclus
 Of that which some would gaze on with Delight to
 Th' Imperial Crown; by which he surely knew *Pylas*
 That what the Fellow told him was too true. *Dam*
 Grief seiz'd his Spirit. He, with Garments Pirith
 Together with his Men, for *Saul* did mourn. cleav

Saul he mourn'd, though Saul to him had been ^{2 Sam.}
A. vicer Foe, than any Philistin.

Saul he mourn'd, though Saul his Life had sought,
him into extreamest Dangers brought.

Saul he mourn'd, though by the Death of Saul,
knew the Kingdom unto him would fall.
is gen'rous Minds, e'en with their Enemies,
adverse Fortunes can't but sympathize.

or Jonathan, as for an only Brother,
as a Virgin for her constant Lover :
mourned He. For 'twixt them too had past
friendship, that beyond the Grave must last.
ortal Friendship ! Never Two were twyn'd
close ; They had Two Bodies ; But One Mind.
oculus to Achilles was less dear.

to Hercules not half so near.
Pylades did more Orestes love :
Damon to his Pythias truer prove.
Pirithous more close not Theseus
cleave ; nor Nisus to Euryalus :

Than

^{2 Sam.} Than did to *David* Princely *Jonathan*,
^{1.}

From the blest Day their Friendship first began,
There Souls were so commix't, that none could
Which lov'd most truly; either lov'd so well,
Jonathan's Love to *David* strongly ran:
And *David's* flow'd as strong to *Jonathan*.
So that, e'en yet, we, in a Proverb have it
[Strong as the Loves of *Jonathan* and *David*.]
'Twas for his Friend; for such a Friend, as Men
Ne'er had before: 'Twas for his *Jonathan*
That *David* mourn'd. And who enough could
The Death, *untimely Death*, of such an One.

But, from *Particulars*, his Grief did call
For Tears, for *Israel* in general.

The House of *Israel* was wounded deep.

What *Ira'elite* could hear it, and not weep!
Not weep a Flood! The People of the Lord
Are fallen by th' uncircumcised's Sword.
This to his Sorrow set the Flood-gates ope:
And to his melting Grief gave boundless Scope

Nor would his *single* Sorrow serve the turn : 2 Sam.
2.
all his Men together with him mourn.
S Death and Jonathan's he did not fail,
most pathetick Language, to bewail :
sure, the *stif'ling* Grief, that fill'd his Breast
Isra'el, could not be in Words exprest.

When Sorrow now its force had somewhat spent,
flowing Tears to Grief had given vent :
Messenger, who did the Tidings bring,
Confest that He did kill the King ;
self-convicted, unto Death appointed,
slain ; for having slain the Lord's Anointed.
Justice done, David from Ziklag rose,
God's Direction ; and to Hebron goes.

C H A P. V.

^{2 Sam.} **H**AIL! Noble Hero, Favourite of Heaven,
To whom a Royal Diadem is given!
Welcome to *Hebron*! Lo, thy People bring
Their Presents to their new-Elected King.

No sooner was it known, that *Jeſſe's Son*
Had *Ziklag* left, and was to *Hebron* gone;
But *Judah's Nobles* thither did resort:
And, with a splendid Train, did fill his Court
Judah, the Tribe to which he did belong:
Judah, the Tribe of all the Tribes most strong.

The Men of *Judah*, as with one Consent,
From all their Cities unto *Hebron* went.
They went, with Hearts full of Affection fra
His safe Arrival to Congratulate.

nd, thither come, they *David* did install
ng over *Judah*, in the room of *Saul*.

*2 Sam.
2.*

He sacred Oyl they on his Temples shed :
d set th' Imperial Crown upon his Head.

The Court they make, and all the City, ring
th joyful Acclamations to their King.

Scarce were the Coronation-Triumphs o'er ;
nce the new King his Diadem had wore :
en he again must draw his late-sheath'd Sword.
But are the Joys which human Things afford.

Son of *Saul's* surviv'd his Father's Death,
ice Twenty Years of Age, nam'd *Ish-boseth*. *2 Sam.
3.*

Abner took (*Abner*, the Generall
ll the Forces that belong'd to *Saul*)
Abner did to *Mahannaim* bring ;
o'er the House of *Ifra'el* made him King.

thus *Israel* and *Judah* were divided,
st either Party with their own King sided.

2 Sam. Hence Civil Wars between the Tribes arose: or w
3.

And who were always Friends, are now grown Fo
They that were link'd by Nature, and by Gr
Each other now, in Hostile Manner chase,
The Sword devoureth Flesh on either side:
And Hebrews Hands in Hebrews Blood are dy'd.

Long had these Civil Wars already lasted, him
And Isra'el's Strength was thereby greatly waft Royal
(For weaker grew the House of Saul, the long
The War endur'd, and David's House grew strong
When awful Providence, by means unthought
The War, and Faction, to a Period brought. Not fa
en J

To Rizpah, who had been Saul's Concubine, on
Twas thought that Abner did too much in his absence
This Ish-bozeth Resenting with Disdain,
Charg'd Abner that with Rizpah he had lain. Uncle
High-stomach't Abner, who could nothing bro', hav
That touch'd his Honour, such Displeasure too just
At this Reproach; that he resolv'd to bring
All Isra'el over unto Judah's King.

For would he in a Covert Manner go
work: but boldly told his Master so.
forthwith to *David* Messengers he sent
make his Peace; and then in Person went
Hebron: after he had first inclin'd
the Isra'elitish Princes to his Mind.

2 Sam.
3.

him *David* graciously Receiv'd, and made
Royal Entertainment, while he staid:
then, in Peace dismis't him, to effect
grand Affair, which *Abner* did project.

Not far from *Hebron* yet was *Abner* gone
when *Joab* entred (*David's Sister's Son*)
on some Military Enterprize,
absent been, against the Enemies,
with *David's Men of War* (for, over all
Uncle's Forces, he was *Generall*)
having giv'n his Enemy the Foyl,
just Returned, laden with the Spoyl.

2 Sam. When *Joab* heard, that *Abner* had been there
3. Receiv'd, and sent away again with Care:

His *Passion* rose so high, it made him fling
Undutiful Reflections on his King.

Zeal he pretended for his Prince's State.

But underneath did lurk *Revenge* and *Hate*.

For 'twas not long before, at *Gibeon-Fight*,
 That *Abner* and his Men bei'ng put to Flight,
Asahel, *Joab*'s Brother, him so hard .

Pursu'd, that *Abner*, standing on his Guard,
 In's own Defence, and sore against his Will,
 To save himself, was forc'd the Youth to kill.
 His Brother's Blood, in *Joab*'s Eye still reeks,
 And he a Seafon to Revenge it seeks.

He after *Abner* sends, in *David*'s Name,
 (Unknown to *David*) to come back. He cam
 No sooner come, but *Joab*, in the Gate
 (With *feigned Kindness* hiding *inward Hate*)
 As if he had some Secret to impart,
 Took him aside, and stab'd him to the Heart.

Thus fell the valiant *Abner*, thus did die
grave Commander, through base Treachery.
As princely *Joab* did his Honour stain
With *Abner's* Noble Blood, ignobly slain.

2 Sam.
3.

When unto *David's* Ear the News was brought,
The foul Murther, by his Nephew wrought,
perc'd his Royal Heart; Apt Words he lack't
To speak his just Abhorrence of the Fact:
In unstrained Terms, himself he free'd
From being *Conscious* of so foul a Deed.

I, and my Kingdom, guiltless are, he said,
Abner's Blood: on *Joab* be it laid.
And may it on his House for ever rest:
By Sword or Famine Him and his infest.
May his Posterity be never free
From leprous Ulcer, or Infirmitiy.

Then for the Funerall he Order gave,
Wept a Show'r of Tears on *Abner's* Grave.

^{2 Sam.} *Joab*, to rend his Cloaths, he did Command,
^{3.} And at the Grave, begirt with Sackcloth, stand
After the Bie'r Himself in Mourning went:
And, in an *Elegie*, his Grief did vent.
The People joyn: All over *Abner* weep:
And, for his Death, a solemn Mourning keep.

C H A P. VI.

^{2 Sam.} **T**OO late did *Ish-bozeth* his Error find,
^{4.} In having alienated *Abner's* Mind
From his Affairs: Too late did he repent
His hasty Rashness, when he saw th' Event.

'Twas not without good Cause, that Nature
A double Guard before the Tongue: and yet
That nimble Member (it's too often found)
Nor Lips, nor Teeth can keep within its bound
But out it breaks. *A few unwary Words*
More Mischief do, than twice so many Swords.

Saul's inconsid'rate Son, 'tis like, ne'er thought ^{2 Sam.}
^{4.}

Taunt would that Effect, it did, have wrought.

Martial Spirits no *Affront* can brook,
at, on their *Honour*, like a *Stain* doth look.
d therefore e'en Kings themselves had need,
ew they their Subjects disoblige, take heed.

When *Fame* had sounded *Abner's* hasty Death
to the Ears of drooping *Ish-bozeth*,
Trembling seiz'd him, and his Spirits fail;
Hands grew Feeble, and his Face grew pale:
He, though yet no Danger did appear,
himself abandon'd to *unmanly* Fear.
His abject Mind made some neglect him more,
so did not over-value him before.

Two Sons of *Rimmon* (the Beerothite,
Off-spring of the wily *Gibeonite*)
were under *Ish-bozeth*, in some Command:
I was, I take it, Captain of a Band.
Se having, some how, Intimation got,
Israel's Princes a Revolt did plot

And

2 Sam. 4. And hoping to advance their Fortunes higher

With *David*, did against their Lord Conspire.

'Twas Summer, and the Weather sultry hot,
 The King into his Bed-Chamber was got :
 And, being both with *Heat* and *Grief* oppress'd,
 Had thrown himself upon his Bed, to rest.
 Thither, at Noon, the two *Affassines* came
 (*Baanah* one's, *Rechab* was th' other's Name.)
 Their Places give Admittance. In they go,
 And, through the well-known Ways, they pass w
 The Room, where *Ish-bosheth* supinely lay
 Upon his Bed. Him on his Bed they slay.
 Then, from his bleeding Corps, his *Head* they tak
 And, through the Plain, with Speed for *Hebron* ma

Arriv'd, to *David* forthwith they address :
 And, in such Terms as these, themselves expre
 Behold, Great Prince, the *Head* of *Ish-bosheth*,
The Son of Saul, thy Foe, who sought thy Death :
 And with that Word, the mangled Head they shew
 A gastly Sight, all in gore-Blood imbru'd.

Sight struck Horror in the Standers by : 2 Sam.
Indignation flam'd in David's Eye. 4.
paus'd : then, with a Tone that made them quake ;
this Effect he to the Traytors spake.

*As the Lord lives, who hath my Soul, said he,
deemed out of all Adversity ;
when one to Ziklag came, and Tydings brought
that Saul was dead (who, for his Tidings, thought,
at my Hand, a good Reward should gain)
caus'd him to be seized on, and slain.
How much more then, when Wicked Men have shed
Righteous Person's Blood, upon his Bed,
his own House : Shall I not now require
you his Blood ; and make your Death your Hire ?*

his said, at his Command, his ready Guard
Treason, with the Traitors Death, reward.
Hands and Feet cut off, upon a Spear
he hang'd in publick, to make others fear.
Justice done to Ish-bozeth, his Head
bner's Sepulcher was buried.

The

2 Sam.
4.

The Israelitish Elders, who before
 To *David* did incline ; do now much more.
 Their Way is open'd by th' untimely Death
 Of their own King, unhappy *Ish-boseth*.
 To *Hebron* therefore they themselves betake ;
 And to this purpose unto *David* spake.

Behold, Great Prince, thy Bone and Flesh are
And e'en while Saul was King, yet Thou wast he
That led'st us out, and brought'st us in again :
Be pleased therefore over us to Reign.
For God hath said, Thou shalt my People feed ;
And be a Captain over Isra'el's Seed.

2 Sam.
5.

Their Message *David*, with Majestick Grace,
 Receiv'd ; and all the *Elders* did embrace.
 A solemn League before the Lord they make,
 That He not Them, nor They should Him forsake.
 Then forth the *Consecrated Oyl* they bring,
 And over *Israel* Anoint him King.
 All Hearts are glad. Joy Reigns in ev'ry Eye,
 Which Shouts, and publick Triumphs testify.

The vocal Nymph the News to Fame reports,
 ^{2 Sam.}
 ^{5.} Those Trumpet sounds it into Foreign Courts.

When the Solemnities were at an End,
 ; which on the Coronation did attend,
 ; all things settled ; the twice Crowned King
 ; Royal Army to the Field did bring :
 ; therewith th' insulting Jebusites he beat ;
 ; he made Jerusalem his Royal Seat.

 ; The Philistines he smote, who were so bold,
 ; come and Brave him, even in his Hold.

 ; The Moabites he fully did subdue.
 ; And mighty Hadadezer overthrew.

 ; The Edomites he Tributary made.

 ; Syria, having smarted, was afraid.

 ; And Ammon he chastiz'd, and tam'd :
 ; for his Prowess, through the East was fam'd. ^{2 Sam.} ^{10.}

 ; And yet not more for that, than for his Love,
 ; Jonathan, which did it self approve
 ; Eyeing after Jonathan, unhappy Prince,
 ; By Battle fell ; not for his own Offence,

 ; But

^{2 Sam.} But for his Father's. *Friendship that is brave*
^{10.} *Doth Death survive; and lives beyond the Grave*

^{2 Sam.} David, now having got a little rest
^{9.} Bethinks him how his Love may be express'd
To Jonathan, his dear deceased Friend,
In his Posterity: And, to that end,
Asks, if there yet was any left at all,
Descended of the Family of Saul,
To whom he, for the sake of Jonathan,
Might Kindness shew. They call to Mind a
Whose Name was Ziba: Him they seek and b
To Court; and straitway he inform'd the K
That Jonathan had yet a Son, by Name
Mephibosheth, who of his Feet was lame.
For he, poor Child, when Tidings came that
And Jonathan were slain, receiv'd a Fall
Out of his Nurses Arms; when, in the Frig
She fought to save him by too hasty Flight.
By which Disaster he, alas! became
A Cripple all his Days; of both Feet lame.

Him *David* sent for ; and, with special Grace ^{2 sam.}
reiving, did at his own Table place :
uring him, He, for his Father's sake,
e Care of him, as of his own, would take.
en all his Grandfather's and Father's Lands
toring to him : *Ziba* he commands
take the Charge thereof; the Land to Till,
I make the best of't, to his utmost Skill :
I bring the *Profits* to his Master's Son ;
at he, in handsome Port, might live thereon.

Mephibosheth, with Kindness overcome,
lame in Feet, was neither *Rude*, nor *Dumb* :
both by *Gesture*, and *Expression*, shew'd
highest Marks of humble *Gratitude*.

C H A P. VII.

2 Sam.
11.

TH E highest Pitch of Honour now attain'd
 Had David, and the Sov'reign Power gained.
Thrice had the Consecrating Oyl been shed,
 In solemn wise, on his Majestick Head.
 His Temples tinctur'd with a double Crown.
 The House of Saul, his Rival, quite brought down.
 His Enemies, of him, did stand in aw.
 And to his Neighbours round he gave the Law.
 His Arms brought Conquest home. His very Name
 Struck Terror, where his Armies never came.
 Secure he sat, upon his awful Throne.
 By Others Fear'd: Beloved by his own.
 All things, to make him Happy, did conspire.
 Nor lack'd he ought that Reason could desire.

But how unsafe is Greatness! Ah, how nigh
Unto Prosperity doth Danger ly!

Begui-

2 Sam.
11.

Quiling *Pleasures* do on Greatness wait.
Vice lies lurking still at *Pleasure's Gate*.
It slips (And hard it is, I doubt,
Where *Pleasures* have *free Course*, to keep it out)
Virtue doth insensibly destroy.
brings forth *Treble Grief* for *Single Joy*.
David found: and e're he was aware,
caught, caught and held fast in *Pleasure's Snare*.

came to pass, one Eve'ning, when the Heat
was (which, in that Clime, was great)
David, from his easful Bed, arose;
to the airy Roof of's Palace goes.
Walking to and fro, his wandring Eye
saw a Naked Woman, *Bathing*, did espy.

The Sight surpriz'd him. Yet he *Pleasure* took,
What *attractive Object* still to look:
never had he seen so rare a Creature,
Shape, Complection, and for lovely Feature.
Adiant Beauty fate upon her Face.
mov'd her Body with a moving Grace.

L

Upon

2 Sam. Upon her Shoulders hung, in Curls, her Hair,
11.

As well in Colour, as Proportion, fair.

All Parts were taking. But I cover those,
Which her disrobed Posture did disclose.

The Sight set David's Nature all on Fire:
His Breast inflaming with *undue* Desire.
He Look't and Burnt: He Burnt and Look't again:
Nor Power had from Looking to refrain.
His Eyes betray'd his Heart. Now yeild he
Himself a *Captive* to unruly Lust.

Ah! How unsafe it is to let the Eye
Into the Privacies of Women Pry!

How dangerous to let the Devil catch

The Mind a Roving, from its inward Watch:

David was guarded strong enough, no doubt,

To hinder any Mischief from without.

But he that will secured be from Sin,

Must keep a strict, and constant Guard within.

Now all his Thoughts poor *David* doth employ,<sup>2 Sam.
11.</sup>

The Party how to find, and to enjoy.

He makes Inquiry; and doth quickly find
One, that knew both the Woman, and his Mind.

For him he understood, The Beauteous Dame
Was *Ammiel's* Daughter: *Bath-sheba* her Name.

(And that she was the brave *Uriah's* Wife,
Uriah lov'd her far above his Life.)

It is known, the King, impatient of Delay:
He sends Messengers: The Woman they betray,
And bring her to him. She by him Conceives.
And then, returning home, the Palace leaves.

How Miserable is that Princes State,

Whom a Pack of *Parasites* do wait!

How sad is his Condition who must Trust

As will *Pandar* to his lawless *Lust*!

They, whom *David* sent the Dame to bring,

Unworthy of a Place about a King;

Why would have run the hazard of his *Blame*,

Save their Master from so foul a Shame.

2 Sam. 11. They would have represented to his View
 That *odious Evil* in its *proper Hew*.
 They would have try'd all Means ; have strove ha
 And, rather than have acted, *disobey'd*. (pray
 But ah ! such faithful Courtie's are as rare,
 As in the Streams *black Swans* ; *white Crows* in A

No Help from his had *David*. They he sen
 Were in so *bad* a Work, *too* diligent.
 He spake the Word, they ran ; their Errand te
 Prevail, the Woman bring ; *by her* he fell.
 He fell, who had such *high* Attainments know
 To whom such *special* Favours God had show
 He who so late before the Ark did Dance,
 Now could not stand against a Woman's Gla
 Surpriz'd by a Temptation, down he fell ;
 Who the *Sweet Singer* was of *Israel*.
 He, from the holy Path, aside did start ;
 Who, *once*, a Man was after God's own Hear

Ah ! Who can hope, when such Men fall, to f
 Without an eminent Supporting Hand !

Life's a War. Temptations all assail :
And, without strong Resistance, will prevail.
Not Kings, we see, can stand ; however good
They are, when once they yeild to Flesh and Blood.

2 Sam.
11.

After fair Bath-sheba had been at home
Some long enough to know ; Her fruitful Womb
(which she was not apt to be beguil'd)
Gave her Assurance, That *she was with Child*.
With the private Notice thereof sent
To David ; publick Scandal to prevent.
This put poor David to his Shifts, to find
How he the Husband, and the World might blind.

2 Sam.
11.

C H A P. VIII.

URIAH, all this while, from home had
Seeking, immortal Fame, by Arms to win
Him David straitway sent for home, that he
A Cloke to their *Adultery* might be :
Not minding that he needs must come too late,
To cover a *Great Belly* of that date.

No sooner good *Uriah* did receive
The King's Command : but forthwith, taking lead, S
Of *Joab*, to the *Court* his Course he bent ;
And to his Sov'reign did himself present.
The King enquires : *Uriah* doth relate
Both *Joab's Welfare*, and the Armie's State.

When he had made an End, and Night came
The King (who stood on Thorns to have him g

Dis

smist him ; and advis'd him hast to make
own to his House : and there Refreshment take.

2 Sam.
11.

From the King's Presence forth *Uriah* went :
and after him a *Royal Mess* was sent ;
d before King concluding he would home repair,
w himself to solace with his (*faulty*) Fair.

No farther went *Uriah*, than the Gate
late the King's House, where the King's Servants wait.

ith whom, his old Acquaintance, he conserts ;
d unto them the War's Success reports.

hen Bed-time came, amongst the Guards he kept,
g land, Soldier-like, in the *Guard-Chamber* slept.

Troubled was *David*, when he heard, by some,
ext Morn, *Uriah* had not been at home.

e. at hiding, what he could, his Discontent,
for *Uriah*, to his Presence, sent :

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im g m, in such Words as these, did gently blame.

2 Sam.
11.

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2 Sam.
11.

- ‘ What was the Matter, *over-hardy Knight*,
 ‘ Thou went’st not down unto thy House last Night,
 ‘ Came’st thou not from thy Journey, *tyr’d & spent*?
 ‘ Why art thou of thy self so negligent?
 ‘ I thought thou might’st have born a *Bed* less hardy
 ‘ Than are the *Matted Benches* of my Guard.
 ‘ Therefore I sent thee home, to take thy Rest,
 ‘ Where I suppos’d, thou might’st enjoy it best.
 ‘ Hereafter of thy self more Careful be.
 ‘ Thou know’st not what thy Loss would be to me.

With humble Thanks, *Uriah* thus reply’d.

Israel and *Judah*, with the *Ark* abide
 In Tents: Lord *Joab* lyeth, with his Men,
 In *open Fields* encamped. Shall I then
 Go to my House to Eat, and Merry make,
 And Pleasure in my Wife’s Embraces take!
 The Lord forbid! As lives thy Soul, O King,
 I will not be perswaded to this thing.
 I shun whatever *Courage* would abate.
 Soft *Pleasures* do the Mind Effeminate.

Thus spake Uriah. And let none suppose
drop't by Chance; Or from a Soldier rose:
spendt heedfully observe it, with an Eye,
that can through Words, a Providence descry.
God was *Hedging David's Way* about;
David's Guilt might, to his *Shame*, break out.

2 Sam.
11.

When *David* had *Uriah's Answer* weigh'd,
plainly saw, unless he were *betray'd*,
never should by him effect the End,
which he for Him, from the Camp, did send.
New Measures therefore *David* now doth take.
contrives how he *Uriah Drunk* may make.
looks on him with a more familiar Face;
and now receives him into *special Grace*.
seems he in *Uriah* to delight,
if he were the *only Favourite*.
King's feign'd Kindness quickly grew so great,
that now *Uriah* must with *David Eat*.
makes him Drink, and Drink, and Drink again;
with rich Wines, he *overcharg'd* his Brain.

Thus

^{2 Sam.} Thus *Sin* to *Sin*, thus *Guilt* he adds to *Guilt*:
^{11.}

Nor stops, until *Uriah's* Blood be spilt.

Thus the *allow'd* Commission of a *Sin*,
Not seldom serves to let another in.

Uriah now is *Drunk*; the grapy Juyce
Hath of his Reason robb'd him of the Use.
With sprightly Wine inflam'd, who would have thou
But he, his Wife's Embraces would have sought
Yet neither *Drunk*, nor *Sober*, could he be
Perswaded, either House, or Wife, to see.
But with the Guards at Night again he lay;
And snoring slept his Drunkenness away.

The King now hopeles, and enrag'd to thin
That neither by his *Flattery*, nor *Drink*
He could his End obtain; and harder grown
(For *Sin*, repeated, hardens any one)
Resolves, at last, a desp'rate Course to try:
And Murther joyn unto *Adultery*.
No way, to save his Honour, did remain,
He thought, unless he got *Uriah* slain.

since he found that, not by any Wile,
the *Resolv'd Uriah* could beguile :

2 Sam.
11.

saw that, if he suffer'd him to live,
never would the *Injury* forgive :

if not seek *Revenge*, at least proclaim
Wrong he suff'red ; and his Prince's *Shame*.

is reason'd *David* : on this Policy

King concludes, *Uriah* needs must dy.

that had suff'red *too much Wrong* before,
that discov'red be, must suffer *more*.

h's guiltless Blood must now be spilt,
make a *Covering* for *David's Guilt*.

Oh ! The *Guilt* of *guiltless Blood*, thus shed,
fall, with *trebled Weight*, on *David's Head*.

What is *Man*, the best of Men, when left
to himself ; of divine Grace bereft !

To *Joab*, *David* doth a Letter write,
commanding him that, in the hottest Fight,
should *Uriah*, in the Fore-front, place :
when he is Engag'd, Retire a-pace ;

Leaving

2 Sam. Leaving him *single* in the open Plain,
11. That, by the Enemy, he may be slain.

The Letter, which contain'd this dire Command
 Is sent to *Joab*, by *Uriah's* Hand.
Uriah, void of Jealousy and Fear,
 The fatal Letter doth to *Joab* bear.
 Of his own Death the *Instrument* He's made.
How easily is Innocence betray'd!
 So went *Bellerophon*: whose milder Fate
 Did unto him prove more propitiate.

When *Joab* understood his Master's Mind,
 He to *Uriah* such a Place assign'd,
 Where, by Experience, he before had found
 Were *valiant* Men, that would defend their Gro
 Then *falling back*, there left him to maintain
 The Fight alone: So was *Uriah* slain.

Thus the brave *Hittite*, by a Plot fore-laid joy
 Valia'ntly Fighting, basely was betray'd.

the first, perhaps, that ever lost his Life,
not Embracing his most beauteous Wife.

2 Sam.
11.

With speed Uriah's Death is signify'd
David, who his Joy could hardly hide.
Uriah's Widow, when she heard the News,
Put on the Mourning Weeds that Widows use,
Mourn'd the time. Then *David* took the Dame
Home to his House: And she his Wife became.
Nor was it long before she bore a Son.
God was sore displeas'd with what was done.

C H A P. IX.

Now all was whisb't and still. *Uriah Dead.*
His Wife translated to King *David's* Bed.
more by stealth: but now with open Face,
joyful King doth Bath-sheba embrace.
More his Courtie's doth her Court, and Kiss;
Without Blushing, dares to call her his.

Uriah's

^{2 Sam.} Uriah's Blood th' Adul'try out did blot.

^{11.}

And how that Blood was shed, is now forgot.
Dissolv'd in melting Pleasures David lies,
And from th' Avenger, in himself, he flies.
Remorse was lost. Hardness was entred in,
Sensu'al Delights had drown'd the Sense of Sin.

But David's God (the God who David chose)
And David lov'd) would not his David lose.
For though a strong Temptation had prevail'd,
And David, sway'd thereby, had grossly fail'd
Yet he, who Hearts doth search, and Reins doth see
Saw yet in David a Sincerity.

^{2 Sam.} His Prophet therefore God did send, to rouze

^{12.}

The Stupid King, from his Lethargick Drowze.

O boundless Goodness! O unmeasur'd Love
Which did the Bowels of the Father move
Towards his Erring Child. He condescends:
And the first Motion makes, for being Friends to Fe
Th' Offended uses Means, to raise a Sense
In the Offender, of his foul Offence:

at, on *Repentance*, he may *Mercy* show ;
ot. and *Reconciliation* thence may flow.

252m.
12.

Th' inspired Prophet, thus to *David* sent ;
by a *harmless Wile*, him *Circumvent* :
having in a *Parable* him caught,
the King to be his own *Condemner* brought.

Two Men, said he, did in one City dwell :
one very *Poor* ; th' other in *Wealth* did swell.
the *Rich*, of Flocks and Herds, had countless Store.
the *Poor Man* had, in all the World, no more
but one small *Ew-Lamb* ; which he bought, & fed ;
and choicely, with his Children, nourished.
of his own *Cup* it drank : and for its Meat,
he grudg'd it not the same himself did Eat.
let it in his *Bosom* ly at Night :
or, as a Daughter, 'twas his chief Delight.
Now when a *Stranger* to the Rich Man came
to Feast ; the *Rich Man* was so void of Shame :
that, sparing all his own, he took and drest
the *Poor Man's Lamb*, to Entertain his Guest.

With

^{2 Sam.}
_{12.} With strict Attention did King David hear
The Prophet out. Then made it soon appear,
How quick his Sense was of the Poor Man's Wron
And what did to th' oppressing Rich belong.
Against the Man his hot Displeasure brake,
And to the Prophet, *Nathan*, thus he spake.

' As lives the Lord, Let him be ne'er so hig
' The Man, that this hath done, shall surely d
' Nay, Death shall not suffice: but furthermore
' He four times over shall the Lamb restore:
' Because that, having Plenty of his own,
' He did this thing, and hath no Pity shown.
So spake the King. But little thought, alas!
That he this Sentence on himself did pass.

How partial is the Nature of Mankind!
Quick-sighted at another's Fault: but blind
Unto our Own! Our selves how apt to spare.
But unto Others how Severe we are!
He that could, with an over-hasty Breath,
For a less Fault, pronounce another's Death:

ould just before abuse his Neighbour's Wife ;
d Him, without Remorse, deprive of Life.

2 Sam.
12.

No sooner did the heavy Sentence drop
m David's Lips ; but *Nathan* in did chop
on him : and No longer hide I can,
d he, my Message from thee ; *Thou'rt the Man.*

How great was, at that Word, the King's Surprize ;
ight have been seen in his *dejected Eyes.*
conscious Blood into his Face did *Flush*,
brought upon his Cheeks a *scarlet Blush* :
ich lasted not, but in a while did fail ;
was succeeded by a *fainty Pale*.
f the guiltless *Blood* he lately spilt,
thither flow'd, to Evidence his *Guilt*.
then Retiring, back again had fled,
hew the stained Ground, where it was shed.
reat Disorder in his Face appear'd ;
well from what he *felt*, as what he *fear'd*.
Hands, like one that hath the *Palsy*, shook :
trembling Knees against each other strook.

M

Silent.

2 Sam. 12. Silent he sate; his Spirit almost gone:

While the inspired Prophet thus went on.

‘ Thus saith the Lord, the God of *Israel*’
 ‘ (who in most *awful Majesty* doth dwell)’
 ‘ I over *Isra’el* Thee appointed King;’
 ‘ And out of all thy Troubles did thee bring.’
 ‘ Out of the Hand of *Saul* I did thee save:’
 ‘ And unto Thee thy *Master’s House* I gave.’
 ‘ Into thine Arms thy *Master’s Wives* I cast:’
 ‘ And to thee *Isra’el* made, and *Judah*, fast.’
 ‘ And if all this had been too small a Store,’
 ‘ I would have added such and such things more’
 ‘ Why then didst thou the Lord’s Command defence?’
 ‘ To do the thing that’s *Evil* in his Eyes?’
 ‘ *Uriah* Thou, with *Ammon’s Sword*, hast slain’
 ‘ And with his Wife, as with thine own, hast’
 ‘ Now therefore, never shall thy *House* be free’
 ‘ From *Sword*: because thou hast despised me’
 ‘ (Who, from the Sheeptote, Set thee on the Throne)’
 ‘ And took *Uriah’s Wife* to be thine own.’

Thus faith the Lord, Behold, I'll Evil raise,
Out of thy House, against thee, divers ways.
^{2 Sam.}
Thy *Wives*, before thine Eyes, I'll from thee take ;
And let thy Neighbour *Strumpets* of them make.
He with thy Wives, in open View, shall ly :
Regardless who looks on, or who stands by.
Thou *secretly* hast wrought, and in the *dark* :
But I will on thee set a *publick* Mark.
For I will cause this *Justice* to be done
Before all *Isra'el*, and before the Sun.

This said, the Prophet stopt. The wounded King
(who of his Guilt now felt the *piercing* Sting)
defence had none to make : No Art did use,
This foul Offence to *palliate*, or *excuse*.
flainst fetching, from his very *inmost* Part,
haast *woleful* Groan, which seem'd to rend his Heart ;
e fir quive'ring Lips let fall this mournful Word,
me me ! I sinned have against the Lord.
Theigh the Sentence clos'd ; A Sigh that came
n. warmly out, it might his Lips inflame :

^{2 Sam.} But that his *melting Eyes* a plenteous Show'r
^{12.} Of Tears, upon his Cheeks and Beard did pour.

Short the Confession was. Yet that it flow'd
 From a true Penitent, the Accent show'd.
 It reach't the Prophet's Heart, and gain'd Belief
 Of the Sincerity of David's Grief.
 For God Repentance, if it be sincere,
 Accepts, though short, in Words, it doth appear.

Such David's was: yet was it not in vain.
 The gladdened Prophet alters now his Strain;
 And, with an *Healing Word*, doth thus begin:
 'The Lord hath also put away thy Sin;
 'Thou shalt not dy. O, who would be so base,
 To Sin against such undeserved Grace!
 Howbeit (Thus the Prophet did proceed)
 'Because thou great Occasion, by this Deed,
 Hast given wicked Men, the Lord to scorn;
 'The Bastard-Child, which unto thee is born,
 Shall surely dy. His Word was verefy'd:
 For, on the seventh Day, the *Infant dy'd.*

The Prophet now, his Message fully done,
had left the King ; and to his House was gone.
But what he, from the Lord, had to him said,
had on David's Heart a deep Impression made.

2 Sam.
12.

His Conscience, which before did slumb'ring ly,
now, throughly wake'ned, in his Face did fly,
and Charg'd him home. He felt the Wounds within,
which, on his bleeding Heart, were made by Sin.

Ah ! Who his grinding Sorrows can Express !
Who speak the Hundredth Part of his Distress !
His galling Grief, his pity-moving Moans,
His deep-fetch't Sighs, and his Heart-rending Groans !
Ourself, we find, could not deliver these,
Without the help of great Hyperboles.

How earnest was he ! With what Fervency,
to his God, did He for Pardon cry !
Have Mercy on me, O my God, he cry'd :
And from my Sins thy Face, not from me, hide.
Surge me with Hyssop ; Cleanse me from my Sin :
And wash me throughly, from all Guilt, within.

^{2 Sam.} 12. ' Create in me a *Clean Heart*, and *Renew*

- ' Within me, Lord, a Spirit *Right* and *True*.
- ' O from thy Presence cast me not away :
- ' Nor take thy Spirit from me, Lord, I pray.
- ' With thy free Spirit me *Uphold*. Restore
- ' The Joy of thy Salvation, as before.

Such *moving Supplications Day and Night*,
 Did He pour forth ; which I nor can recite,
 Nor need : for he hath couch't them in such *Verses*,
 As my *short-winded Muse* cannot Rehearse.
 Suffice it therefore, that the Reader know,
 He did *not Pray in vain* : but Prayed so,
 That He not only *Pardon* did obtain ;
 But his lost Favour did with God regain.
God grant, whoever sins like him, may be
As true a contrite Penitent, as He.

The End of the THIRD Book.

A VIDE IS.

BOOK IV.

CHAPTER I.

Ho' the sharp sentence, which, in too great haſt, ^{2 Sam.}
 Th' unwitting King upon himſelf had plac'd, ^{13.}
 Is mitigated, by the Clemency
 David's God; that David might not Dy:
 Did the Prophet, in God's Name, declare,
 That he would *Evil* against him ¹⁰⁰¹ prepare;
 Which ſhould in his own *Family* arife,
 And on him bring the foreſt Exercise.

M 4

This

2 Sam. 13. This was the Doom, though more at large expr. On t
By which poor *David* was to be distrest. wan
Which (though protracted, yet) would certain be soon h
For who can Alter a Divine Decree? Sha
Judgments denounc'd may linger: But, at length, wa
They fall more heavy, and with greater strength. Fle
Sometimes the Stroke doth at a Distance stand: the fir
Yet that which brings it on is near at hand. d In
So, in this Case, some Years did Intervene,
Betwixt the Sentence, and the Tragick Scene. A Fi
Yet that which led thereto did closely Lurk; Kin
And, in short time, did thus bring on the Wo's Fa
icksfi

Of all the many Sons which *David* had,
Amnon the Eldest was; a topping Lad:
Who of the Jezreelite, *Ahinoam*,
Was born, soon after she to *Hebron* came.
A Daughter also *David* had, whose Name
Was *Tamar*; a most beautiful young Dame.
Sister she was to *Absalom* the Fair,
David's Third Son; so noted for his Hair.

On this Half-Sister-Princes, *Amnon* cast
wanton Eye. Affection grew so fast
upon him, that, not daring to discover,
nor *Shame*, or *Fear*, what an *unlawful Lover*
he was; He *Pin'd* away, his *Cheeks* grew *pale*,
Flesh did *wast*, His *Strength* began to *fail*.
The *fi'ery Passion*, in his *Bosom* pent,
did *Inward* burn; for want of *Outward* vent.

2 Sam.
13.

A Friend he had, who unto him was near
Kin; a Friend peculiarly dear:
Was Father's Brother's Son, nam'd *Jonadab*,
Wicksighted, and *too wise to be a Blab*.

He, well observing how, from Day to Day,
Princely Kinsman *Pin'd*, and fell away:
which since he no outward Cause could find,
included something did afflict his Mind.
Therefore, a proper Season having got,
put the Question close: Asking him, what
was, that on his Nature did prevail,
as to make his *Countenance* look *pale*,

And

^{2 Sam.} And *Flesh decay.* Begging him not to hide
^{13.} Ought from his Friend ; in whom he might confi-

Prince *Amnon*, by his Friend thus closely prest,
 His Love, though not without a *Blush*, confess'd.
 The Prince *Tamar* 'tis, said he, I Love.
 Oh, that my Love should so *Eccentrick* move !
 I love my own *Half-Sister*, who did Spring
 From the same Root, as I my self; the King,
 I love, Ah me ! I love : Yet love in vain;
 Hopeless the Object of my Love to gain.
 This is my Case. The Heat of my Desire
 Consumes my Nature : sets me all on Fire.

When *Jonadab* (than whom no Man alive
 Knew better how a *mischief* to contrive)
 Had heard the Case ; He soon discov'red what
 Would *Amnon* please : And thus he laid the Plot

Go, Take thy Bed, said he, and (for a Time)
 Put on thy Night-Cap. Feign that thou art

when thy Father comes to see thee, say
leave, I pray, my Sister *Tamar* may
me to me ; and before me dress some Meat :
seeing it done, I at her Hand may Eat.

2 Sam.
13.

He went no further. For, he knew, the Prince
was quick enough, to understand his Sense.

If he could but draw the Long'd for Dame
Amnon, thin his reach, knew how to Quench his Flame.

Amnon, the Council liking, forthwith took
Bed upon it ; and, with *puling* Look,
embled Sickness. Quickly the Report
Amnon's Illness reach'd the royal Court.

The King, in hast, to *Amnon* doth repair,
Son to visit, and the Kingdom's Heir.
It gave fair room for *Amnon* to request,
might Eat something by his Sister drest.
The King consents : and doth his Mind declare,
that *Tamar* should to *Amnon's* House repair ;

And

^{2 Sam.} And there, by his direction, dress such meat
^{13.} For him, as he, *poor Heart!* could like to eat.

The Princess *Tamar* did no sooner hear
 Her Father's Message, but, with filial Fear,
 And nimble steps, she to her Brother hies,
 Who, on his Bed, dissembling Sickness, lies.
 She askt him How he did: And did bemoan
 His danger. But *more justly might her own.*
 The courteous *Mien*, fresh *Beauty* of the Dame,
 Did more and more the *Lecher's Lust* inflame.
 She ask't him what, He'd please to have her Held
 For him to Eat: He pitch'd upon a *Cake*.
 She to the work addrest her self with hast;
 Temp'red the *Flour*, and wrought it into *Past*.
 Her Milk-white Hands, and slender Fingers
 The pliant *Past*, till it a *Cake* became.
 Then having Bake'd it also at his Fire
 (Each Turn and Motion hight'ning his desire)
 She brought it to him. But he put it by.
 His Room was overfill'd with Company.

2 Sam.
13.

order given that it Clear'd should be,
none left in it, but Himself and she:
then requested, that she would draw near,
bring the *Mess.* She did so, without Fear.
when, alas ! within his Reach she came,
laid fast hold upon the lovely Dame :
Untaking her about the Neck, he Kist her ;
bluntly said, *Come, Ly with me, my Sister.*

Damsel surpriz'd, the Damsel trembled ; and would fain
escape from him got : She strove, but strove in vain ;
Held her fast. She then began to plead ;
for her Honour, thus did Intercede.

Past Oh; *Force me not, my Brother!* I intreat
you to consider, that the Sin is great.

great, in it self: *Greater, in thee to me ;*
nearly Link't by Consanguinity.

desire forbear, I pray, Forbear: Thy Lust restrain.
My Honour, Mine, our Father's, do not stain
with such an Infamy. Thou know'ft full well,
such thing may be born in *Israel.*

‘ Should’st

2 Sam. 13. ‘ Should’st thou *Defile* me: Where could I ab
 ‘ Where find an Hole? my *shamed* Head to h
 ‘ Thou too, who *Heir* art to our Father’s Cro
 ‘ Born to the Kingdom, Bred in High Reno
 ‘ Thy Father’s *Darling*, and the Peoples *Joy*
 ‘ What will become of thee, if thou Destroy
 ‘ Their Hopes, by perpetrating such a Crim
 ‘ As this? Well might thou thenceforth Curse the
 ‘ Thou e’er saw’st *Tamar*: For Thou then (ah
 ‘ But as a *Fool in Israel* would’st be.
 ‘ Regard thine Honour, *Mine*, our Family:
 ‘ And rob me not of my *Virginity*.
 ‘ *Force me not*, Brother, *Force me not*: But rather
 ‘ Ask me in Marriage of our Royal Father.
 ‘ He to bestow me on thee will not fail.
 ‘ O let my *Pray’rs* and *Tears* with thee prevail!

This said, she, with her *Tears*, bedew’d his Inj
 But He, whom Lust had quite bereft of Grac
 Her most importune Prayers would not hear : ch L
 But to her Supplications stopt his Ear : his S

being stronger, did by Force *deflow'r*
Princely Dame; resisting, to her Pow'r.

2 Sam.
13.

reat is the Diff'rence betwixt *lawful Love,*
lawless Lust. That doth it self approve,
ts Effects, to be indeed *Divine;*
aving a Celestial Origine.

Constant is; and by Injoyment grows
Stronger: which its *Innate* Virtue shows.

t'other, (which is *miscall'd* Love, and must
ghtly nam'd, be called *filthy Lust*)
a sensual Concupiscence doth flow:
ch shews its Parentage is *from below.*
likes to take a *Tast* of ev'ry one.
with All: but Constant be to none.
this, how Hot soever it doth burn:
Injoyment, can to *Hatred* turn.

uch Love was *Amnon's*: whose *uncurb'd* Desire,
his Sister, set him all on Fire.

He

^{23am.} He Burn'd, He Flam'd, Consum'd, & needs would pre-
^{13.} Unless he might with his own Sister Ly.

Yet, when he once his *brutish* End had gain'd
 And, by a Rape, his Sister's Honour stain'd:
 He, in a moment, chang'd his amo'rous Theam,
 And flew as high in th' opposite Extream.
 He, who but now was *over Hot* and Bold,
 Is now become to Her *exceeding Cold.*

He, that in nothing else could take Delight,
 But her fair Face; Now *loaths* and *shuns* the Sigh
 She, who *before* his Heart did Captivate;
 Is now become the Object of his Hate.

He *Hates* her now. He *Hates* her now much m
 With perfect Hatred, than he *Lov'd* before.
 He *Hates* her so, He can't her Presence bear:
 But ev'ry Hour she stays He thinks a Year.
 That nothing might, to shew his Hate, be lacki
 He rudely bids Her, Up; Away, be Packing.

This *surly* Carriage added to the Grief
 She had before. Nor knew she where Relie

Opp

prest, to find. She told him, On her part, 2 Sam.
13.

there was no Cause He thus should break her Heart.

wish'd him to weigh, whether this would not bring
greater Displeasure on him from the King.

He the deaf Ear, to all she said, did turn;
Churlishly did at her Counsel spurn.

Call'd his Man, and sternly Bid him Put
that Woman out: and fast the Door to shut.

did so. She, poor Princeſs, did Lament
the double Injury. Forthwith ſhe Rent

her royal Robe (of divers Colours made,
which Kings Virgin-Daughters were Array'd)

lovely Tresses of her well-set Hair,
trembling Fingers, through deep Sorrow, tare,

putting Ashes on her Head, ſhe laid
Hand thereon, and mournful Accents made;

to her Brother Absalom's ſhe went,
where ſhe, more freely, might her Case lament.

soon as Absalom the ravish't Dame
fee (well knowing also whence ſhe came)

N He

^{2 Sam.} He strait suspecting what had her befell ;
^{13.} Beg'd of her, that she would not stick to tell
 Him, how 'twas with her : Whether *Amnon* had
Abus'd her ; and from thence she was so sad.
 She *blushing*, rather to Acknowledge chose
 Her *Wrong* by *Looks* ; than *Shame* by *Words* disclos'd
 He understood Her. And Considering
 How Dear Prince *Amnon* was unto the King ;
 How High, in Favour of the Court and Town,
 He stood, as *Heir* apparent to the Crown :
 Concluded in himself, 'twould be but vain
 To Hope for *Justice*, If she should Complain.
 Therefore he wish't his Sister to conceal
 The wrong sustained, until He could deal
 With *Amnon* for it. She submits to wait ;
 And liv'd with him : but much discomfolute.

Absalom's Guess was right, that 'twould be vain
 For *Tamar*, of Prince *Amnon* to Complain
 Unto the King : for, though he very wroth
 Is said to be ; yet was he no less loth

When to his Ear this foul Transgression came)
lay on Amnon Punishment or Shame.

2 Sam.
13.

But Absalom did bear the thing in mind;
d, in due time to be Reveng'd, design'd.
in his Heart, He could not choose but Hate
Man, that durst his Sister Violate,
Near, or High soever. Such a Stain
hardly be got out, till he is Slain
t gave it. Therefore Absalom is set
on to Kill, when he fit time can get.

C H A P. II.

W I C E had the restless, and unwearied Sun
His yearly Course, throughout the Zodiak: un
Absalom a season fit could find,
execute the Vengeance he design'd
Amnon, for the Wickedness he wrought,
The Dishonour he on Tamar brought.

N 2

But

asam. But now a fit Occasion did present,

33.

And he, to take it too, was fully bent.

A great *Sheep-Shearing*, at his Country Seat,
Had *Absalom*; at which a Noble *Treat*
He meant to make; and thither to Invite
The King and Court; then *Amnon* there to Smit

To Court he hastens, and Acquaints the King By
In humble Manner, with his Sheep-Shearing, let
Intreats that He, at the set Time and Place, by A
His Feast would, with his Royal Presence, gra mon,

The King, Considering how much the Chanc
If he went, his *Retinue* would Enlarge:
(Though for no other Cause he did refuse
To go) from going, did himself Excuse.

It sorted well; and likely would be best, on Co
Without the King; so *Amnon* were his Guest, to his
Amnon, for whom the Entertainment's mad
Amnon, whom to destroy, the Train is laid.

Net crafty *Absalom*, the more to hide
Is bloody Purpose, still himself apply'd,
With greater Earnestness, to gain the King
To come; and with him *all* his Sons to bring:
At all in vain. The King will not be won,
By his Intreaties, to Oppress his Son.
But, that he might his good Acceptance show,
Mits Blessing He upon him did bestow.

2 Sam.
13.

King By this imbold'ned, *Absalom* him prest,
Let his Brother *Amnon* be his Guest.
Why *Amnon*? ask'd the King. Because, said he,
Amnon, in dignity, is *next to thee*.
The gentle King, from all Suspicion free,
Char'd overborn by Importunity,
Says that, not *Amnon* only, but the rest
The King's Sons should go, at his request.

Now *Absalom*, his Point thus gain'd, doth part
From Court; and hast, with unrelenting Heart,
To his Country Seat, that he might there,
What needful was to his Design, prepare.

N 3

Then,

25am. Then, of his Servants, calling to him such,
13. As, in his cause, he knew, would never grutch
 Their Lives to lose: He thus the Matter breaks;
 And, in such Terms as these, his Purpose speaks.

‘ Mark well, said he, when *Amnon*, at the Fea
 ‘ Shall have drunk high, and overcharg’d his Bre
 ‘ With gene’rous Wine: when I say, *Amnon* smit
 ‘ Fall on, strike home, Fear not, but kill him qui
 ‘ Remember It is I, that give Command:
 ‘ Be valiant then, and to your Weapons stand.

Accordingly, when the King’s Sons were come
 And all the Guests, to Feast with *Absalom*;
 He, that he *Amnon* might the more beguile
 (His Hatred hiding with a feigned Smile)
 Embrac’d, Caress’d him, and for special grace,
 In the chief Seat Him, as chief Guest, did place.
 Ply’d him with sprightly Wines, till he perceiv’d,
 The Wine had him of Sense well nigh bereav’d.
 Then starting up, He gave the fatal Word,
 Smite *Amnon*. Forthwith each *Affassin*’s Sword

Was sheathed in him : Ev'ry One let fly
at Amnon, until *Amnon* dead did ly.

^{2 Say.}
13.

But Oh ! The *Hurly-Burly* that it made
mong the Guests ! Each held himself betray'd.
The Royal Stock were most of all perplex't,
of whom each fear'd his Turn would be the next.
Which to prevent, all to their Mules did hie ;
And back to Court, *Fear adding Wings*, did fly.

But tho', with utmost Speed, they cut their way,
At long-tongu'd Fame made greater hast than they.
The babling Dame before them got to Court,
And of the sad *Disaster* made Report.
And, as her Nature is to magnify
Evil News she bears (not sticking at a Ly)
To Exaggerate the Crime, did feign,
That *Absalom* All the King's Sons had slain :
That not one of them alive was left ;
That of his Sons the King was quite bereft.

^{2 Sam.} Such doleful News sufficient was to shake By t
^{13.} The strongest Mind, and make the Heart to ak ^{which} The King; with Garments rent, upon the Grou ^{the K}
 Himself did cast: His Sorrows did abound. And on
 And all his Servants, with their Garments rent, ^{1 He}
 The Losf of so much Royal Blood lament. ^{d, i}

This Jonadab observing (he who gave Mea
 The Counsel, which brought Amnon to his Gra ^{om. S}
 He begg'd the King not to believe that *all* to h
 His Sons were slain: *Amnon alone* did fall. There
 That this, which he related, was most true, ^{Da}
 He could Assure him. For, said he, I knew, ^{which}
 Long since, that Absalom, from the very Hou ^{Da}
 Wherein his Brother Amnon did deflow'r This
 His Sister Tamar, had his Death design'd: the
 And only waited until he could find God
 A Season for't, which since he now did gain ^{of}
 He caus'd his Brother Amnon to be slain, ^{ainst}
 Thereby to Sacrifice, to Tamar's Honour, ^{Da}
 Him, that had brought so great Reproach upon him
 or, h

2 Sam.
13.

By that time *Jonadab* his Tale had told
which scarce as yet could gain Belief) Behold
the King's Sons enter'd, in a frightful Maze,
and on the King, as he on them, did gaze:
He and They into loud Weeping break;
and, in sad Accents, mutua'l Sorrows speak.

Mean while young *Absalom*, to save his Head
From Stroke of Justice, for Protection fled
to his Grandfather's, King *Talmai*'s Court:
where he might hope for Safety, and Support.
David long did *Amnon*'s Death bewail.
which yet could not *Uriah*'s countervail.

This is the Second Instance may be giv'en,
the fulfilling that Decree of Heav'en,
God denounc'd to *David*; when he says,
of thine own House I will Evil raise
against thee. His Son *Amnon* did deflow'r
Daughter *Tamar*, put into his Pow'r
upon him: than which, ah, what more foul Dishonour,
or, harmless Princess, could have come upon her!

What

2 Sam. What Home-bred Mischief on himself could fall
13.

Which could a worthy Mind more deeply grieve?

Let that go for the *First*. But two Years after
His Son and Heir had thus *defile'd* his Daughter.
Another Son was stirr'd up, to repay
That *Injury*; And He doth *Amnon* slay.
Had David *Justice* upon *Amnon* done,
He might have *mended*, and not lost his Son.
This was a *Cutting Evil*, and must need
Strike deep; and cause a Father's Heart to bleed.
This was the *second Stoke*, by which that Woman
Fulfilled was: David, *beware the Third*.

C H A P. III.

HOW had Prince *Absalom* three Winters spent ^{2 Sam.}
_{13.}

At *Gesbur*, whither he for Safety went.
When *David*, having for his *Amnon* shed
many a Tear: now, seeing he was dead,
commits his Grief. And soon Paternal Love,
place resuming, in his Breast doth move
Absalom; Right Heir to *Israel's* Throne,
Now *Amnon's* dead, and *Chileab* also gone.

his hanke'ring Mind *Joab's* observing Eye
in the King, his Uncle, soon espy.

, being glad to find it, beat his Brain,
fetch Prince *Absalom* to Court again:
doubting but, if he could that obtain,
Royal Favour he would soon regain.
To effect, a wily Train he laid
King to circumvent: who, thus betray'd,

Unwittingly

^{2 Sam.} Unwitingly should Pardon *Absalom* ;
^{14.} And that once done, should then recall him hom

To *Tekoah* he sent, where then did dwell
 A Woman, who in Wisdom did excell.
 Her, to him brought, he did Instruct to Dress
 Her self in Mourning Weeds. Then get Access
 To the King's Presence ; And, that done, to fei
 She Mourned for a Son of hers, was slain
 By his own Brother : Whom the Family
 Rose up against ; Condemning him to dy.
 Then, to beseech the King her Son to save
 From being buried in his Brother's Grave.

Instructed thus, She to the Court did go,
 And, as a Suppliant, her self did throw
 At the King's Feet. And being askt the Caste
 She Archly told it : and it took such place
 In the Unthinking King, that he thus spake,
Go home ; and I due Care for thee will take.
 She, glad of this, did yet her Sute renew
 Once and again ; until the King she drew

say, *Thy Son for this sha'n't lose an Hair.*

2 SAM.

14.

And this he did not only say, but swear.

When thus the wily Dame the King had wrought
To grant, unwittingly, the thing she sought,
Leave obtain'd, the Matter home did bring,
And fairly did apply it to the King.

Told him, that he was that *Avenger*, whom
He fear'd, on the behalf of *Absalom*.

Desought him to Consider that, unless
He did Him *Pardon*, and his People bless
With their beloved *Absalom*: Nor He
From Danger could, nor They from Fear be free.
He begg'd that He, as *Father*, and as *King*
Would pardon *Absalom*; and home would bring
His *Banished*: and him again restore
Into the Grace, in which he stood before.

The King, himself, now finding over-reach't
As once before, when *Nathan* to him preach't
That saving Sermon; with this odds, that He
Was *Guilty* then: but now from Guilt was *free*)

Injoyn'd

^{2 Sam.} Injoyn'd the Woman, that she should not hide
^{14.}

From him the thing he ask't : but should confide
In him, that he would no Advantage take
Against her. She consenting, Thus he spake,
Is not the Hand of Joab in this thing?
She own'd, It was. Then *Joab* hither bring,
Said he. And unto *Joab* (being come)
He said in short, *Go fetch the young Man home.*

Joab, (Obeyfance made unto the King,
And Thanks return'd, for thus far Favouring
His humble Suit) Unto King *Talmai's* Court
At *Gesbur* hafts ; the good News to report.
Which, once deliver'd, made all Heads imploy
Their Wits, to set forth their unbounded Joy
On *Absalom's* Account. Who, ever since
He came to *Gesbur*, like a Noble Prince
Himself behaved had ; so Brave, so Fair,
So Curteous, Genteel and Debonair,
And so Obliging, that whoever could
Gain his Acquaintance (which all might, that wou
-ld be well done) must won and - nift, givin
-Moryon!

and themselves highly honoured; and strove
themselves to render worthy of his Love.

2 Sam.
14.

As him to them so feelingly endears,
They could not think of Parting, without Tears.
So go he must: Affection, Friendship, all
at vail, and yeild to a *paternal Call* ;
though *Interest* should therein have no Share;
which yet in this Case no small Weight did bear.

With *Joab* therefore *Absalom* Returns
to *Gesbur* to *Jerusalem*, and burns
with *thirsty Hopes*, and *Expectation great*,
of *highest Favour* from the *Royal Seat*.

But Oh! the Disappointment it must bring
to his *aspiring Mind*, when, from the King
returning, let him understand,
as to him the King's express Command; that
he should strait to his own House resort,
not attempt to shew himself at Court.
Well the King consider'd, 'twas not meet,
though his Love was great, his Son should see't.

Nor

^{2 Sam.} Nor that he him to special Grace should take,
^{14.} Who had so lately made his Heart to ake.

Though therefore, Circumvented by a Wile
He had recall'd him from his Self-Exile ;
And sav'd his Life from Danger of the Law :
He held it best to keep him still *in awe*.
Hoping, in time, he to a better Sence
Might thereby bring him of his great Offence.

When two full Years Prince *Absalom* had lay
Under Confinement; not without Disdain,
That he had not been suffer'd, in that space,
To *Kiss the King's Hand*, or to see his *Face*:
Impatient of Restraint, He now did send
For *Joab* (both his Kinsman and his Friend)
To try if he, howe'er he sped, would bring
Him to the long'd-for Presence of the King.

But truly *Joab* (who, perhaps, might find
How to his Son the King did stand inclin'd)
To the

ke, could nor at *first*, nor *second* Summons, come
him; which so provok't Prince *Absalom*:
at he resolv'd, since *fair Means* would not do;
Wils'd try what *Fouler* would induce him to.

2 Sam.
14.

bid his Servants, therefore, set on Fire
Field of *Joab's*. *Joab*, to enquire
the Cause of this *Abuse*, did quickly come:
and this *blunt Answer* had from *Absalom*.

Thou know'ft I for thee sent, once and again;
thou from coming to me did'ft refrain.
other means bei'ng left, I this did take,
see if *Inte'rest* would thee *kinder* make.
w therefore let me to the King thee send,
beg, He to my Life will put an End,
ther than under this Restraint me keep,
sm'd so, that abroad I may not peep.
erefore didst thou me (too unhappy *Wretch*)
m Grandfire *Talma's* Court, in *Gesbur*, fetch;
der pretence, that I should be restor'd
to the Favour of my Royal Lord?

O

Better

2 Sam. 14. Better it were, I thither might go back
 (where I nor *Liberty*, nor *Love* did lack)
 Than here remain; where I no Comfort have,
 But what arises from an *boped* Grave.
 Therefore beseech the King me once to grace,
 With the fair Aspect of his Royal Face.
 If Live I may not in his gracious Eye;
 Let me not Live at all: *I choose to dy.*

Though *Joab* gladly would himself excuse
 From going on this Errand. Yet refuse
 He knew not how. The Prince hard presses for
 And he, o'ercome, doth trudge away to Court.
 Come thither, He a *proper Season* waits;
 And then so *aptly* to the King relates
 The Case, and State of his beloved Son,
 That ground he on the King's Affection won.
Affection help'd his *Judgment* to betray;
 And to the Prince's suit prepares the way:
 For now *Affection* made his *Judgment* doubt,
 If he against his Son should still hold out.

He might endanger, e'er he was aware,
2 Sam.
14.
 The driving of his Son into *Despair*.
 Therefore he orde'red *Joab* strait to bring
Absalom to his presence: th' only thing
 both desir'd. *Joab*, o'erjoy'd, doth hasten
Absalom: and brings him back as fast.
 To the King doth all *submission* shew;
 And at his Royal Feet himself doth throw.
 The King doth raise his Son up from the ground,
 And that such *Humbleness* in him was found.
 Then, in his Arms him taking, doth him *kiss*:
 Which *Emblem* of full *Reconcilement* is.

C H A P. IV.

The *Intemp'rance* of th' *ambitious* Mind!
2 Sam.
15.
 To no due Bounds, or Medium confin'd!
 How doth it *swell*! How doth it *soar* on high!
 If it fain would Climb above the Skie.

2 Sam.
15.

This *topping Temper* soon it self did show
 In *Absalom*, and wrought his Overthrow.
 He that, at home confin'd, but t'other day,
 Greatly deprest in mind, obscurely lay,
 O'erwhelm'd almost with Grief, and cold Despair
 No sooner felt the *warmth* of Courtly Air :
 But, as the *Winter-Fly*, whom Heat doth bring
 To sense, begins to *Buz*, and take the Wing.
 So He, the Royal Favour feeling, strait
 Took Wing, and soar'd above his proper state.

Unsteady Nature, varying like the Wind,
 Hurries to each *Extream*, th' *unstable* Mind.
 At Sea *becalm'd*, we wish some *brisker* Gales
 Would on us rise ; and fill our *limber* Sails.
 We have our *Wish* : and strait our *Skiff* is toss'd at hi
 So high, we are in danger to be lost.
 At Land, we would be *foremost* ; make a stir : or w
 And Ride at *Neck-and-all*, with *Whip* and *Spur*. May f
 We would *be*, would *have* All : are loath to st
 For what's our *Right*, till have't of right we ma Acc

This is the Nature of *ambitious Man*,
aring as fast, as *high* too, as he can.
hereas, would we but Bridle our Desire,
ll the due time, we might rise safely higher.

2 Sym.
15.

This was the Ruine of this goodly Prince,
t loose too soon ; his lofty Mind, e'er since,
m'd nothing *lower* than the *highest Seat* ;
ought nothing, for himself, too *Good*, too *Great*.
e on the Crown look't with a longing Eye :
or spake, nor dream't of ought but *Monarchy*.
nd whenso'er he saw the Royal *Throne*,
ould scarce forbear to call that Seat *his own*.
es his own it might have been, would he have staid,
ntil his Father's Head was fairly laid.
toss'd at his *Impatience* thought each Day a Year,
uch Year an Age, until the Throne was clear.
tir: or would he stay, till *Providence* should make
pur. way for him to't : He his one way would take.
to st Accordingly, He did assume such State,
e ma This did transcend the highest Subject's rate.

^{2 Sam.} Horses he did, and Chariots too, provide ;
^{35.}

And Fifty Men, in whom he could confide,
 To Run before him : which might taken be,
 Either for State, or for Security.

High State it shew'd, if these his *Lacquies* were ;
 A strong Defence, if he did Them prepare
 For his *Life-Guard*. On which so'er Account
 It was ; it did a Subject's State surmount.

This Pomp, however, made the People gaze
 And in the Mob did Admiration raise.
 For *Vulgar Eyes* with *Gaudy* shews are caught ;
 And from *Admiring*, to *submission* brought.
 But He had other ways, to Circumvent
 The better sort : and thus to work he went.

Early each Morn, He to the Court would go
 And there, beside the Gate, would stand, that
 Whatever *Suitor* to the King did come,
 For Judgment, must pass by Prince *Absalom*.
 Then would he call him to him ; Ask his Name,
 And from what City, or what Place, he came.

hat known, He seem'd concern'd the Matter might ^{2 Sam.} _{15.}

well: and say, Take Care thy Cause be right.

at then, with down-cast Look, and shaking Head,

ded, The King bath no Man, in his stead,

ere: quited thee to bear: so that, though right

my Cause should be, Thou suffer mayst by might.

t en, in a kind of discontented Tone

is if he did the Peoples Case bemoan) ^{adit vE}

ed mutter something; then would make a stop:

aze d, in a softer Tone, this Wish would drop;

ould I were made Chief-Justice in the Land!

at; at eve'ry Man, who hath a Cause in hand,

ight come to me; and I would do him Right,

ow Poor so'er: None should oppress by Might.

ould I were on the Bench, that I, from thence,

ight equal Justice unto all dispence!

When thus himself he thus far had extoll'd;

and thereby the poor Suitor had Cajoll'd

Bow unto him, and Obeysance make:

his Arms he would this Client take,

2 Sam. 13. Hug and Embrace him ; nor would him dismiss,
Till he had Charm'd him with a treacherous Kiss.
Thus did the Son, by such alluring Arts,
Bereave the Father of his Peoples Hearts ;
And to himself them draw : whilst the good King
Of all things, least suspected such a thing.

By this time, Absalom is thought to be
Forty years old. And finding now, that he
So strong a Party had, that he durst venture,
Upon the Crown, by Force of Arms, to enter ;
And drive his too-kind Father from the Throne
(Which He, amongst his Faction, call'd his own).
He held it best yet, Policy to use, to let him
The King his Father further to abuse ;
And gain some time, from his beguiled Father,
That so he might his scattered Forces gather
Unto a General Rendezvous ; and then
Pour on his Father an whole Host of Men.

For this End therefore, to the Court he went not
And that he might be sure to Circumvent

is, the King ; this feigned Tale he did devise,
King's Treason, with Religion, to disguise.

2 Sam.
15.

' While I, at *Gesbur*, did an *Exile* live,
I vow'd a *Vow*, That if the Lord would give
Me *Favour* in thy Sight, and bring me home,
That I, in peace, unto this Place might come :
Then would I to the Lord an *Offe'ring* make
At *Hebron*, where I Life at first did take.
Now therefore, *gracious Sir*, be pleas'd, I pray,
To grant *thy Servant* Leave ; that go I may
To *Hebron*, and perform the *Vow* I made
Unto the Lord. The good King, thus *betray'd*
by feigned words, said, *Go in Peace*. He might
have better said, *Come back in peace, at Night*.
But wise Men, good Men, suffer'd are, sometimes,
To fall into the Snares their former Crimes
lave for them laid. Thus this unwitting King
helps forward that, which must upon him bring
the *Judgment* * long since giv'n. *Uriah's Blood*
was not yet silenc'd ; but still *Cry's aloud*.

*1 Sam.
12. 11.

To

2 Sam.
35.

To *Hebron* now Prince *Absalom* doth Post,
 And sends his *Scouts* abroad, through ev'ry Coast
 Of *Israel*, that they might Notice give
 To all his Friends, who did dispersed live
 In all the Tribes; That when they once should hear
 The *Trumpet* sound, they should for him appear
 In Arms, Imbody; and where e're they came,
 Amongst their Neighbours, they should him proclaim
 And that, not faintly; but in *lofty* strain,
 Say, *Absalom* doth now in *Hebron* Reign.

With *Absalom* too, from *Jerusalem*, went
 Two Hundred chosen Men; who his Intent
 Knew nothing of: but went unto his Feast.
 By which his Strength, and Numbers were increased
 For these were Men of *choice* Abilities
 For War; as well to *Fight*, as to *Advise*.
 But he for Counsel chiefly did rely
 Upon *Ahitophel*, whose Fame so high
 Was in Esteem, that whatso'er He said
 Was, as the *Oracle* of God, obey'd.

m, who had *Councillor* to *David* been, 2 Sam.
15.

It *Salom* now did to his *Faction* win :

and, from his City *Gilot*, did the Wretch
his Head-Quarters, now at *Hebron*, fetch.
And now this *foul Conspiracy* grew strong,
ear the People did so thick to *Hebron* throng.

C H A P. V.

WHILE thus the Son, with a disloyal Mind,
His *Father* to dethrone, by Force, design'd :
One loyal Subject, who had notice got,
Both the *Preparation*, and the *Plot*,
Sued to Court, that he might timely bring
The News, how bad soever, to the King ;
That so the King might not, although betray'd,
unawares be *Slain*, or *Pris'ner* made.

Rushing in therefore, out of Breath, he said,
My Lord, O King, Thou art betray'd.

H

The

^{2 Sam.} The Men of *Israel* are from thee rent,
^{15.} And *Absalom* to Crown are fully bent.
 Him they already have Proclaimed King ;
 And mean thy *Scepter* from thy Hand to wring.
 So universally they take his part,
 Af if, in this, They *All* had but *one* Heart.
 And he is drawing out his *Troops* apace,
 As if he aim'd to seize thee in this Place.

So *strange* a Message, so *unthought* a Thing,
 No wonder if it did surprize the King.
 Yet did it not from him his Judgment take,
 Nor him so wholly void of *Counsel* make ;
 But that he thought, 'Twas better leave the City
 Than hazard it unto the *Rebell's* Pity.

Calling his *Servants* therefore, *Come*, he said : *Hast*
Arise, *Let's Flee* : seeing we are betray'd.
 Make speed away. Else we shall not Escape
 From *Absalom*, who for our *Lives* doth Gape:
 And, if he come, and find us in this Place,
 Will *Sack* the Town, perhaps : if not *deface*

the Royal Buildings, and, us to despite,
the People also, that are in it, Smite.

2 Sam.
15.

hereas, if we be gone, He'll us pursue.

Place, and People, may that Hurt eschew.

This said, and in his House Ten Women left ;
of his *native* Courage not bereft,
March't forth : His Houshold-Servants him attend ;
And unto *Kidron-Brook* their Course they bend.

Come to the Brook, his little Troop he Musters,
More like the *Gleanings*, than the thickset *Clusters*
a full Vintage :) Yet enough to shew,
had some Friends yet left : though *but a few*.

Besides his Houshold (which was large) went o'er
Hundred Fighting Men ; who, long before,
had been Companions of his Suffer'ring State
under King *Saul*: and whom no adverse Fate
would make to flinch ; or so far to Transgress
the Bounds of Loyalty, as in Distress

To

^{2 Sam.} To leave him. These his *Veteran* Soldiers were
^{15.} And, in his Cause, would sell their Lives full de-
 These were his *Life Guards*, Men of wondrous Mi-
 Hardy and Strong, and Valiant too in Fight.

With these, as suiting well his Mind did sort
Ittai, the *Gittite*, lately come to Court.
 Him the King seeing, ready to go o'er
 The Brook, thus mildly spake unto ; Wherefore
 Should'st Thou along with us go, to take part
 In my *Adventures*? who a *Stranger* art,
 And but new come. Return into the City.
 Thou yet art safe. And it would be great pity
 That I should draw thee into *Danger*, who
 Neither know what to do, nor where to go.
 Take back thy Brethren therefore, and abide
 With the *New King*, till God the Cause deside
 And, for the *Kindness* Thou to me dost show,
 May *Truth* and *Mercy* always with thee go.

The Noble *Gittite*, with a brave Disdain,
 Heard out the King. But then could not refrain
 Its

ver from telling him, How much himself he held
Honour bound, to serve him in the Field.

2 Sam.
15.

Mig therefore solemnly protested, that
would not leave him in his *adverse* state.

art t, with his Leave, wherever he should bend
s Course, he would upon him there attend.

ore Soome Life, or Death, He would him not forsake:
part with him, to the last, his Lot would take.

art So brave a *Resolution* needs must cheer
the King, not over apt to let in Fear.

pity When passing on together, without stay ;
they to the Wilderness direct their way.

o. But *Zadock* and *Abiathar*, who were
de that time *Priests*, and of the *Ark* took care ;
side ring lest It might Injury receive,
ow, at *Jerusalem* they should it leave,
· and brought it with them: Which when *David* saw,
n, stopt, and, with a reverential Aw,
frain Zadock said, Bear back the *Ark* again
Its Place; and let it there remain.

For,

^{2 Sam.} For, if the Lord shall me vouchsafe the Grace,
^{15.}

That I once more, with Joy, may see his Face;
He'll bring me back, and I shall then behold
His Habitation as in days of Old.

But if he thus say, *I have no Delight*

In David: lo, I stand here, in his Sight,
Ready to bear, with *unrepining Mind,*
What He, to do to me, shall be inclin'd.

For well I know his *Judgments* all are just:
And in his *Mercy* I repose my Trust.

The *Ark* dispos'd; yet was not *David* clear:
He something had to say in *Zadock's Ear.*
He therefore ask't him, Art not thou a *Seer?*
(Thou, and *Abiathar* too, thy *Compeer*)
You therefore both will out of Danger be,
Your *Office* giving you *Immunity.*
Return into the City, and there stay,
As near to *Absalom*, as well you may.
Explore his *Counsels*. Pick up what you can;
And send it to me by some trusty Man.

ce, my Son, and his, fit *Messengers* may be,
e; to bring *Intelligence* from you to me.

2 Sam.
15.

in the *Plain* above, will stay, untill
hear from you how things go, Well or Ill.

This said, They part. They, with the *Ark* go back:
the King went forward; though with pace but slack.
Grief now seiz'd deeper, from a sense that He
must from the *Ark* of God thus banish't be;
and that by his own Son (Rebellious Child!
whom he always had been but too mild)
ear: at then confide'ring, that the Lord his God
had him Chastize, in *Mercy*, with this *Rod*;
r? call'd to Mind *Uriah's Blood*, and wept;
ate'ring, with Tears, the Ground whereon he stept.
nfoot he went, and had his *hoary Head*
are Sign of highest Grief) close covered.
t when he had, at length attain'd the top
Olivet; he there did make a stop,
can; and worshipped the Lord: with humble Heart,
ring the *Sacred Hand*, which made him smart.

2 Sam. While here he staid, good *Hushai* came to meet him
15.

And, with the Tokens of great Grief, did greet him
Hushai, his faithful Servant, and true Friend:
Whom hearty Sorrow made his Coat to rend,
And Earth to lay upon his Mournful Head.
Hushai, at Court, to Courtly Counsels, bred.
Hushai, than whom the King no Servant had,
More *able*, nor to serve his Lord more *glad*.

The King, at first, concluding where he
Might be dispos'd, to serve his Interest,
Said to him, ‘ If thou passest on with me,
‘ Thou unto me shalt but a Burden be.
‘ Go therefore to the City, and Salute
‘ King *Absalom*. That done, prefer thy Suit
‘ That thou mayst be his Servant, as Thou wast
‘ His Father's faithful Servant, in days past.
‘ By this means Thou the *Counsels* of the great
‘ *Ahitophel*, mayst, for my good, defeat.
Then him directing, how he might convey
Intelligence: Each took his proper Way.

Not far had *David* gone beyond the Top
 of *Olive's Mount*, when he another stop
 Was fain to make. There *Ziba* ready stood
 Holding two Asses, laden both with Food,
 Fine *Manchet*, Summer *Fruits* and luscious *Wine*)
 Whereon the King might, when he pleased, dine.

*2 Sam.
16.*

Well might the King suppose, this Present came
 From his Friend's Son, *Mephibosbeth* the lame ;
 Since *Ziba* brought it : who full well he knew,
 Was Steward to *Mephibosbeth*. This drew
 The King to ask, Where is thy Master's Son,
 That he came not ? False *Ziba* thereupon
 Reply'd. He at *Jerusalem* doth stay,
 Down up with Hopes : Nor did he stick to say,
How shall the House of Israel restore
me, the Crown which my Grandfather wore.

The King, not *Ziba's* Treachery suspecting,
 Too easily believ'd him ; and reflecting
 On the detestable Ingratitude,
 Which he suppos'd *Mephibosbeth* had shew'd,

^{2 Sam.} Not having time to hear the Cause, forsook
^{16.} The Course of Justice, and for granted took
 The *unprov'd* Charge of a *designing* Knave,
 And thereupon an *unjust* Judgment gave.
 Whereby he from the *Innocent*, unhear'd
 Took *All* he had: and *All* that *All* conferr'd
 On the *unjust Accuser*, who deserv'd
 A *Rope* much rather, had not *Justice* swerv'd.
 The *fawning* Traytor, having sped so well,
Upon his Knees before King *David* fell;
 And, like unto a right dissembling Loon,
 Gave humble Thanks for this so great a Boon.

Not far from thence, at *Bahurim*, came out,
 As *David* thither came, a *savvy* Lout.
 One of the House of *Saul*, *Shimei* by Name,
 Who rudely *Rail'd*, and *Cursed* as he came.
 ‘Come out, said he, Come out, Thou Man of Blood,
 ‘Thou Son of *Belial*; who too long hast stood,
 ‘The Lord hath now return'd upon thee all
 ‘The guiltless Blood, which, in the House of *Sa* *Gu*

Iath by thy means been shed. The Kingdom, thou ^{2 Sam.}
_{16.} surped hadst, is taken from thee now ;
and given to thy Son. Thou taken art
in the Devices of thine Evil Heart.
Nor staid he here. From *Words* he fell to *Blows* ;
With *Dust* and *Stones* he on King *David* throws,
And on his Servants, who about him were
either side ; to whom 'twas hard to bear,
Abishai, *David's* Nephew, seem'd to take
it most to heart ; and thus the King bespake.
Why should this dead Dog Curse my Lord the King ?
Let me go to him : and his *Head* I'll bring.
But *David* (who, although right well he knew,
That railing *Shimei's* Charge was quite untrue,
Far as he unto the House of *Saul*)
Applied it, where He had no Guilt at all :
In the Book of Conscience daily read
Of *Saul's* Guilt and *Doom*, for Blood unjustly shed,

^{2 Sam.} Uriab's Blood, for which he knew full well,
_{16.}

This Judgment from the Lord upon him fell.)

Would not permit Abishai, for his sake,

Venge'ance on Cursing Shimei to take.

' Let him Curse on, said He: for, if he Curse

' By God's Command, who can think him the wor

' Do ye not see, said he, that mine own Son,

' Who from my Bowels sprang (and Cause liath no

' Usurps my Throne: Hath kindled mortal strife

' Amongst my Subjects; yea, and seeks my Life

' How much more then may this rude Benjamin

' Be born with, though he do me great Despit

' Let him alone. If God hath bid him Curse:

' It may, perhaps for me be ne'er the worse.

' Who knows, but that the Lord on me may lo

' With Pity; when he sees how well I took

' Th' Affliction he laid on me: and with good

' May me requite, for Shimei's Cursing Mood.

C H A P. VI.

BY this time, to Jerusalem was come,

In Royal Equipage, King *Absalom*:

Leading, besides his *Train*, a num'rous *Hof*

of armed Men, drawn out of eve'ry Coast.

Amongst his Friends, who made the greatest hast

to Salute, *Hushai* was not the last.

coming to his Presence, Cry'd aloud

God save the King, God save the King (and bow'd)

under which Words he might his Meaning hide

or they might well to *David* be apply'd.

Absalom had a Mind, it seems, to try

whether he safely might on him rely.

wherefore he, at first Meeting, *on him play'd*,

with a kind of *Exprobation* said,

^{2 Sam.} How now! Is this thy Kindness to thy Friend!
^{16.}

Why went'ſt Thou not, that thou might'ſt him defer?

Nay, but his will I be, *Hushai* reply'd,
Him will I serve; with him will I abide,
Whom God, and all the Men of *Israel* chuse;
None shall me of Unfaithfulness Accuse.
Should not I serve in presence of his *Son*,
As I thy *Father* serv'd (now he is gone)
Surely, As I was then at his Command:
So will I henceforth in thy presence stand.
All which he so *Equivocally* spake,
That Each the Words might in his *own* sense take,
And *Absalom* did them in such sense take,
That of his *Council* he did *Hushai* make.

A Council call'd, he bid them think upon
The Work; and tell him what should first be done;
Abithophel, (who would not take it well,
That any, but himself, should bear the Bell)
Stood up, and *Absalom* he thus bespake;
Thy Father's Concubines forthwith Go take,

! and in most publick manner them defile.

^{2 Sam.}
16.

defeⁿ which will reputed be a Crime so vile:

at nothing ever can for it Atone.

will the People cleave to thee alone.

the Counsel pleas'd. *Absalom lik'd it well.*

Praise their Oracle, *Ahitophel.*

Forthwith a Tent on the House-Top was spread,

where *Absalom* his Father's Wives should Bed.

did so: void of Grace, and void of Shame;

and publickly his Father did defamend

which the Sentence, that before, from Heav'en,

tak^e as, by the Prophet, unto *David* given.*

^{*2 Sam.}
12. 11.

as now fulfill'd: fulfill'd to the Extent.

by the Example still the like prevent!

Now did the treacherous *Ahitophel*

desirnding his wicked Counsel pleas'd so well)

proceed, to Counsel further. "Now Let me

Forthwith choose out 12 Thousand Men, said he;

and go on the Pursuit, this very Night,

While *David*'s weary, and unfit to Fight.

So

^{2 Sam.} 17. ' So shall I him, and all his Men, so fright,
 ' That, they shall him forsake; and I will smite
 ' The King alone (whom only Thou dost lack
 ' To be Cut off) and bring the People back.

This Counsel was approved of, by all
 Then present: Yet King *Absalom* Bid, Call
Hushai the *Archite*, that (said he) we may
 Hear also what He, in this Case, can say.

Hushai brought in, the King to him did tell
 The Counsel given by *Ahitophel*.
 Then ask't. *Dost thou approve it?* If not, show
 Thy Reasons, and direct us what to do.

The wary *Archite* (knowing very well
 The haughty Temper of *Ahitophel*:
 That he might not be thought him to neglect)
 Exprest his Mind in Words to this effect.

Although I know, of all that fill this *Table*,
 There is not, *in the main*, a Man more able

Counsel, than the great *Ahitophel*,
Who doth in Wisdom Others far Excell:
at this time, and in the present Case,
must Confess, I cannot Go his pace.

2 Sam.
17.

If thou, with so much speed, should'st forward rush;
Thou'l hazard All upon too sharp a Push.

thy Father is a Man of War, Thou know'st,
And will not Lodge at Night among the Host.
He now, no doubt, is in some Pit, or Cave;
Where he himself, from a Surprise, may save.
Besides, both He and all his Men, we know,
are mighty Men of Valour; and will shew,
When once Engag'd, They neither weary afe,
Nor weak: but Chafe'd in Mind, much like a Bear
of Whelps bereav'd, they'll fight. Nor will they yield
To twice Twelve Thousand Men the bloody Field.

Whereas thy Men, undisciplin'd and raw
May be more like, hard Charged, to withdraw,
And turn the Buck, and some be overthrown:
Which when it shall among the Rest be known,
Will

^{2 Sam.} 17. ‘ Will raise a *Rumour*, throughout all thy Host,

‘ That *Abjalom* the Field hath wholly lost ;

‘ And where that Rumour takes, it will prevail,

‘ To make the *Courage* of the Stoutest fail.

‘ So shalt thou lose the Day ; and either *dy*

‘ Upon the spot, be *Ta'en*, or forc'd to *fly*.

‘ Which to prevent, my Counsel is, That All

‘ The Men of *Israel*, in general,

‘ From one End, to the other, of the Land,

‘ Be drawn together, like th’ *unnumb'red* Sand

‘ On the Sea-Shore ; and thou, their Lord and He

‘ Into the Field do them, in Person, lead.

‘ So shall we on thy Father, and his Men,

‘ Fall, like the Dew upon the Ground : and then

‘ Nor He, nor any that are with him, can

‘ Escape our hands : We’ll have them, to a Man.

‘ But if he should into a *City* get,

‘ We’ll shut him up therein ; until we fet

‘ Ropes to the Place, and draw it down by force,

‘ And sink it in the *rapid* Water-Course.

Thus *Hushai*, like an Orator did play
upon his Hearers Weakness; and yet they

2 Sam.
17.

vail, and not perceive it. *Absalom*, and All

the Men of *Israel* too, in general,

did, *Hushai's* Counsel doth by far Excel

the Counsel given by *Ahitophel*.

nor is it strange: for 'twas the Lord that wrought
All this Change in them; that what before they thought
was good, they now *dislik'd*: that he might bring
vill on *Absalom*, their *Self-made King*.

He But when *Ahitophel* (who ne'er could brook

Competitor, nor on a Rival look,

(at with disdain) observed had that they

then not only were resolv'd to disobey

his Counsel (which he as *Direction*, gave;

Man did Expect *Applause*, and *Thanks*, to have)

(that *Hushai's* Counsel did to his prefer

not able, An Affront so high, to bear)

(Holding his Ass, away he strait did Trot;

orice, d, in good time, to his own City got.

Where,

^{2 Sam.} Where, having wisely settled his Affairs,
^{17.}

He to the *Halter's Help*, with speed, repairs:
Which having firmly fast'ned to a Rafter,
He stretch't his Neck, to avoid *Affronts* hereafter
There let him Hang: while we look back, and behold
How *Hushai*'s better Counsel did succeed.

When *Hushai* had done speaking, e're he knew and
How it would be accepted, He withdrew;
And to the Priests (*Zadock, Abiathar*)
Related what had past, and what a Jar
Had been, in Counsels, 'twixt *Abithopel*
And *Him*: and, what Each had Advis'd, did tell'd
But not yet knowing which would follow'd be,
He wish't them to Inform the King, that He durst
Might not that Night Lodge in the Plain; but said
Him o'er the River, that he might be freed
From Death and Danger, which he might sustain
If He should stay till Morning in the Plain.

The Priests two Sons without the City staid
(For to be seen within they were afraid)

and unto them their Fathers, by a *Maid*,
the Message, they should go withal, convey'd.
which when they had Receiv'd, away they ran ;
being seen go off, by a *Young Man*,
had thereupon Pursue'd, They, on the way,
themselves in a *Well*. The *Wife* did lay
Cove'ring o'er it, and thereon did spread
new *Corn*; so were they not discovered :
d, when the Coast was clear they posted on ;
d told the Message, which they came upon.

2 Sam.
17.

David, thus warn'd arose : and, in the Night,
cross'd over *Jordan*. By the Morning Light,
be, and the People with him, All were gone :
Heir of his Army miss'd they any one.

C H A P. VII.

^{23am.} _{17.} **T**O *Mahanaim* now King *David* goes,
His *Friends* to meet with, and to miss his *Friends*,
This was the Place, where *Jacob*, long before,
God's Angels meeting, did his Help implore;
And gave it then this Name: by which is shown
Two Hosts. *God's Host* of Angels: and his own *King*.

Here *David* Friendship found, and was supply'd
With needful Things, while he did here abide:
Which was not long. *Absalom* now an Host.
Had rais'd, of which he thought he well might boast
Over this Army he *Amasa* made
His General. With Banners then display'd
He over *Jordan* pass'd, a *Rebell* right,
Against his *Father*, and his *King*, to Fight.

When *David* knew, that his Son *Absalom*,
with a great Host, was over *Jordan* come,
give him Battel: He his Men drew forth;
so, though not many, were all Men of worth:
and, though his Army was but small, he Chose
unto three *Battalians* to dispose.

2 Sam.
18.

is First of these He unto *Joab* gave.
Abai, *Joab's* Brother, was to have
the Second, Noble *Ittai* led the Third:
and to none, for Use of Spear and Sword.
King himself intended too to go
Head of them, as *Generalissimo*:
that the People by no means would yield,
but he himself should *hazard* in the Field.
It represented, that the Enemy
would not regard, if *Half* of them should dy;
much as if they him could take, or slay.
before they begg'd, He from the Field would stay:
if Occasion should require, would send
them Succours. He was fain to Condescend.

Q

But

^{2 Sam.}
_{13.} But when they March't away, He, standing by
Shew'd a *Paternal Passion* in his Eye.
His *Bowels* roll'd towards his *graceless Son*,
And (as presaging that the Field was won)
Thus to the seve'ral *Generals* he spake ;
Deal gently with the Young Man, for my sake.

The *Field* now taken, and the *Battel* joyn'd,
The *Victory* to *David's Side* inclin'd :
But not without a cruel *Slaughter* made
Of them that were by *Absalom* betray'd
Into this *Treason*. *Twenty Thousand* fell
On his side. For, although he did excell
In *Numbers*: yet, they fighting in a *Wood*,
His *Numbers* could not do him half the good,
As, in an open *Champion Plain*, they might ;
Where they could every *Man* have come to fight
Hopeless, at length the routed *Rebels* fly,
And *David's Men* pursue them eagerly.

In this Flight, *Absalom*, that he might shun
King *David's Men*, suffer'd his *Mule* to run

2 Sam.
18.

Under the thick Boughs of a spreading Oak ;
Wherein his Neck being caught, as in a Toke,
The Mule went on, and left him hanging there,
Twixt Earth and Heaven, in the open air :
Nor could he free himself, his bushy Hair,
His Ornament before, was now his Snare.
him, hanging thus, a certain Soldier saw ;
And, passing by him with respectful Aw,
Spoke to Joab, and to him thus spoke :
I saw King Abs'alom hanging in an Oak.
And didst thou ! Joab said ; Why did'st not smite
him to the ground, and Kill him there outright ?
Hadst thou done so, I would have kindly dealt
With thee, and given thee a Soldier's-Belt,
Beside Ten Shekels. O ! cry'd out the Man,
Though I a Thousand Shekels might have wan,
Would not do't ! For I did plainly hear
Our Lord the King (whom we ought All to fear)
Strict Charge give, that none should dare to touch
His Son, so as to Hurt him. And 'tis much
shun'd thou thy self, if I this thing had done,
Run'dould'st have, amongst the rest, against me run.

Q 2

Well,

25. am.
18.

Well, well, said *Joab*, 'Tis not now a time
To talk what would, or would not be a Crime.

Away He ran, and, with a *Threefold Dart*,
Peirc'd *Abſalom*, yet living, through the Heart.
Then cauſ'd his *Armor-Bearers*, Ten young Men,
Out-right to kill him ; which they did : and when
He ſaw him dead, He a *Retreat* did ſound ;
That no more *Hebrew-Blood* might ſtain the Ground.

Thus fell th' *Uſurper Abſalom*. Thus fell
He, who againſt his Father durſt Rebell.
Thus fell a *Prince*, in Body and in Mind,
So well Accompliſh'd ; that he ſeem'd design'd
For Government, would he the time have ſtaid,
And not his Royal Father's Throne Invade.

But blind *Ambition*, kind'ling hot desire
In him, had ſet his *boylng Blood* on fire.
He thought his Father drew too long his Breath,
Nothing would ſerve him but the *Crown*, or *Death*.

The *Crown* he mis'd. A cruel *Death* he found ;
Stab'd, Hackt & Hew'd, with many a gasta Wound.

^{2 Sam.}
18.

His mangled Body to a filthy Pit,
Near to the Place he fell in, they commit :
And, without *Ceremony*, load his Bones,
With an huge Heap of *unregarding Stones*.
Which must have serv'd him for a *Monument*,
Had not He, in his Life-time, with Intent
To keep his Name up, having then no Son,
Set up a *Pillar* (with his Name thereon :)
Which unto after-ages did remain ;
And bore his Name, long after he was slain.

The Field thus won. And He, who was the Head
Of this unnatural Rebellion, dead :
The next Care was, such an Account to send
Unto the King, as might him least offend.

Some Strife arose, who should the *Tidings* bear ;
And divers, for the Office, forward were.

^{2 Sam.} _{18.} Young *Ahimaaz*, good old *Zadock's Son*,
 Of *Joab* begg'd, that he might therewith run,
 But *Joab* doubting that it would not be
 Acceptable, unwilling was that He,
 Whom he well lov'd, should go: and rather chose
Another, than his *near Friend*, to expose.
 For though the Victory was cause of Joy:
 The Death of *Absalom* would that destroy.
 He therefore bid *black Cushi* go, and tell
 The King the Matter, just as it befell.
 He Ran. But *Ahimaaz*, not content,
 Unless He too, on the same *Errand* went,
 Did press so hard, for Leave to Run, that He
 Got Leave: but by meer Importunity.
 Then setting forth, and Running by the *Plain*,
 He so much Ground did of the *Blackmoor* gain;
 That He got first to Court; and That did tell,
 Which needs must Please: for he said, *All is well*.

But when the King, whose Heart was set upon
 The Welfare of his *disobedient Son*,

Is't, Is the Young Man safe? Poor Ahima'az,
 not knowing what to say, did on him Gaze :
 Both to Confess what he could not Deny,
 or yet well knowing how to put it by :
 That, which, with the King, was the main Chance,
 too well knowing, pleaded Ignorance.

*2 Sam.
18.*

Then standing by, as bid : In Cushi ran,
 and to relate his Message, thus began.

Tydings, my Lord the King : for Thee, this day,
 The Lord avenged hath ; so that all they,
 that rose against thee, now are overcome.

Cry'd the King, How is't with Absalom ?

Is the Young Man safe? Cushi Replies,
may it be with all thine Enemies,
'tis with him. The King it understood ;
 And from his Eyes strait Gushed forth a Flood
melting Tears. Paternal Pity wrought
 upon him, and into Excess him brought.

Stairs he went : and, as he went, he Cry'd,
As my Son ABSALOM ! would I had dy'd

^{2 Sam.} For thee, O ABSALOM, My Son, My Son!
^{18.}

And so went on; as if He'd ne'er have done.
His Face He cove'red, and let loose the Rein
To boundless Grief; *of Noble Acts the Bane.*
This turn'd the Triumph, proper for the Day,
To Mourning. The brave Soldiers flunk away,
As Men ashamed. They who the Field had won,
Steal in, as if they from the Feild had run.

C H A P. VIII.

^{2 Sam.} THIS was to Joab told, who weighing well
^{19.} How much this Carriage might the Courage quench
Of all the Army; or raise Discontent:
Which might prove Dangerous, in the Event.
(For Soldiers, if themselves they slighted find,
Will shift their Sides, as nimbly as the Wind;
He, that he might his Duty not forsake,
Went to the King, and, Soldier-like, thus spake.

' Thy Servants All (who ventur'd have their Lives,<sup>2 Sam.
19.</sup>)
To save both thee, thy Children and thy Wives)
Thou shamed hast, by shewing Thou extends
More Love to Enemies, than to thy Friends.
Thy Carriage this Day shews, Thou dost not heed
Or Prince, or Servant: for, in very deed
If *Absalom* had liv'd, it's plainly seen,
And all we dy'd, Thou pleased well hadst been.
Wherefore *Arise*, Go forth, and kindly speak
Unto thy Servants. Else away They'll break
Before the Morning: for I boldly dare
Unto thee, by the God of *Israel*, Sware;
That, If Thou come not in the Peoples Sight,
There will not Tarry one with thee this Night.
And that will be worse to thee, I avow,
Than all the Evil Thou hast felt till now.

By this *bold* Speech (perhaps more *necessary*,
than either *Decent*, or *Discreet* and *Wary*)
so Rouz'd the King, that off he threw
Wayling-Fit. And bei'ng a Prince that knew

How

^{2 Sam.} How to Comply with his Condition ; And
^{19.} As well his Subjects *Humour*, as *Command* :

He hast'ned down unto the City Gate,
And there, as usual was, in Publick late.
Which known, the People (who before had fled
Each to his Tent, as if they had no Head)
Now flock unto him, and with *deaf'ning* Sound
Of joyful *Acclamations*, him Surround.

And now a gallant *Emulation* rose
Amongst the Tribes ; Each to be *formost* chose
In shewing their *Affection* to the King :
And striving him in *Triumph* home to bring,
This first among those Men of *Isra'el* fell,
(Tis thought) Whom *Absalom* had made Rebell.
Who that they might wipe off the *Guilt*, and *Stain* of
Of that *foul* *Crime*, and *Credit* so regain ;
Egg'd one another on, and seem'd to *Vie*
Which should most signalize his *Loyalty*,
In bringing back the King : Whom now they *Prais*
Recount his *Merits*, and Admire his *Ways*.

But *Judah*, his own Tribe, too Backward were,
And too *Regardless* of the Common Care,
His drowsy Negligence did grieve the King,
That, therefore, them he to a Sense might bring
What became them, He a Message sends
Zadock and *Abiathar*, his Friends;
Bidding them unto *Judah's Elders* speak
From Him: and thus the matter to them break.

*2 Sam.
19.*

Why are ye, to bring back the King, the *last*?
Why ye so *slow*, when others Run so *fast*!
Have ye forgot, That ye my *Brethren* are,
My *Bones* and *Flesh* (so have a greater share
In me, than others) Why do ye let slip
The Season? and let others you *out-strip*
In Love and Loyalty? This *Caution* take,
And to your selves Advantage of it make.

He bid them also to *Amasa* say,
Amasa, General, but th'other day,
All the Rebels) ' Art not Thou to me
A Kinsman, near by Consanguinity?

‘ Return

^{28am.} 19. ‘ Return to thy *Allegiance*, without dread:
 ‘ And be my *General*, in *Joab’s* stead.

By these, and other such, engaging *Arts*,
 He wrought so strongly on the Peoples Hearts,
 That *Judah*, sensible they had been slack,
 Now Hast’ned to him, to Conduct him back.

Got over *Jordan*, *Shimei* was the First
 (*Shimei*, by whom he was so lately Curs’d,
 And rudely treated) who, the Tide thus turn’d
 Contrary to his Expectation, *Mourn’d*,
 Or seem’d to Mourn: perhaps the crafty Knave
 Might Sorrow feign, his guilty Head to save.
 His Guilt and Danger did him forward Egge
 To own his *heinous* Crime, and *Pardon* beg.

He therefore (thrusting in with *Judah’s* Men)
 Leading a Thousand of the Tribe of *Ben*:
 To shew, perhaps, what Interest he had
 (Which was the Worse in one that was so bad)

if Occasion were, his Cause to Plead,
d for him with the King to interceed.
was the First, I say, that met the King;
d. on his Knees, did thus *Peccavi Sing.*

2 Sam.
19.

Let not my gracious Lord the King, said he,
compute this day Iniquity to me !
Nor bear in mind what I perversly said,
and did against him, when he was betray'd !
For I, thy Servant, know, that I therein
Am guilty of an execrable Sin.
Therefore I, with the *first*, am hither come.
To wait upon my Lord, and bring him home.
Pardon, Great Sir, Pardon my Fault, I pray :
Let me find *Mercy* at thine hand this day.

Before the King could any Answere make,
ibai, Zerviah's forward Son ; thus spake.
hat ! Shall not Shimei be put to Death ?
at Rebel Shimei ! who, with poys'nous Breath,
d Rail upon, and Curse the Lord's Anointed !
hat, less than Death, can be to him appointed ?

This

^{23am.} This sounded *harshly* in good David's Ear.
^{19.}

And that it did so, He soon made appear.

For, ‘ What, said he, have I with you to do,

‘ Ye busy Sons of *Zerviah*, that you,

‘ On all Occasions, still contrive to be

‘ As much as in you lies, averse from me?

‘ Shall any Man be put to Death this Day

‘ In *Israel*? The Lord, and I, say Nay.

‘ For have not I, think ye, good Cause to know

‘ That I, so lately near an Overthrow,

‘ Still King of *Israel* am, by divine Grace!

‘ Which should with you, as well as me, have Place

‘ For since the Lord this Day doth me Restore

‘ Unto the Throne on which I sate before:

‘ It ought to be a Day of *thankful Joy*;

‘ Which no sad *Execution* should annoy.

Then turning unto *Shimei*, ‘ Thou, said he,

‘ Shal’t not be put to Death, for this, by me.

The End of the FOURTH Book

DAVID E

DAVID EIS.

BOOK V.

CHAPTER I.

AMONG thereſt, whom *Love*, or *Inte'reſt*, drew ^{25. am.} _{19.} To meet the King, false *Ziba* came; who knew when once his Master came in *David's* ſight, is *Knavery* would then be brought to light. That therefore he might ſtill Retain the Place, he had, by *Falshood*, gain'd in *David's* Grace; he, with his *Fifteen Sons*, and *Twenty Men*, came, with Pretence to bring him home agen.

OK
DE But now *Mephiboſbeth* (who, being *Lame*, as not *so Nimble*) in due Season came,

To

^{2 Sam.} To Clear himself from Ziba's false Report,
^{19.} And on the Wretch his Treachery retort.

When the King ask't, why went'ſt thou not with me
 Mephibotheth? ' My Lord O King, said He,
 ' My faulty Servant Ziba, me deceiv'd :
 ' And helpleſs me, he of his help bereav'd.
 ' I orde'red him to saddle me an Aſs ;
 ' That I thereon unto the King might paſſ,
 ' Not able else to Go. *Away he ſlipt,*
 ' And me, of Means to follow wholly stript.
 ' Nor is that all : But He hath *Slander'd* too
 ' Thy Servant to my Lord, with Words untrue.
 ' But well I know, My Lord the King is Wiſe
 ' Do therefore what ſhall ſeem Good in thine Eyes Cat
 ' I plead no *Merit* : All I have I place
 ' To the Account of thine abundant *Grace.*

Enough! Reply'd the King, My Word ſhall stan
 Thou and thy Servant ſhall diſide the Land.

Thus having wrong'd Mephibosbeth before,
stripping him, unheard, of all his Store :
that Wrong he, by a somewhat less Wrong salves,
and doth the Wrong'd Man Justice but by Halves.

2 Sam.
19.

Mephibosbeth not only was most Clear
from Ziba's Charge ; as plainly did appear :
but also had so true a Mourner been,
for David's Trouble, that he ne'er was seen
to Dress his Feet, though lame ; nor Trim his Beard :
nor in clean Linnen ever had appear'd,
to Cheer his Body, from the very Day,
since which the King, distressed, went away ;
till the Day he came again ; which made
Eyes Case the harder, being duly weigh'd.
He, good Man, for Joy the King was come
Peace, and Safety, to his Royal Home ;
regardless what might to himself befall,
Stand'd, Ay, Let Ziba, if he will, take all.

We heard before of certain Men, that came
to bring the King Supplies, at Mahanaim.

R

Of

^{Sam.} Of these *Barzillai* was, the *Gileadite* ;
^{19.} Who did the King Support, with great Delight.
 The sense wherof did so affect the King,
 That to *Jerusalem* he fain would bring
 The *good old Man* ; that there he might have shew
 The highest Marks of *Royal Gratitude*.

But good *Barzillai* did to go refuse.
 And, by his Age, himself therefrom excuse.
 ‘ I am, said he, full *Fourscore Years* of Age,
 ‘ And therefore, with good Reason, may presage
 ‘ My Days cannot be many. I am past
 ‘ The *Pleasures of a Court*. I cannot tast
 ‘ My Food with *Relish*. ’Twere an Oversight
 ‘ For me in *vocal Musick* to delight.
 ‘ My Ear’s too heavy to distinguish Sounds.
 ‘ And me the *Harbinger of Death* surrounds.
 ‘ Why then should I a further *Burden* be
 ‘ Unto my Lord the King ! Oh no ! Let me
 ‘ Wait on thee over *Jordan*, and Return
 ‘ Unto my City, and my Parents Urn :

That there, amongst my People, I may dy,
^{2 Sam.}
^{19.}

And in my Father's Sepulcher may ly.

But lo, my Son, thy Servant Chimham; He
Shall wait upon my Lord, and always be
At thy Command. Him to thee I commit:
And thou mayst do to him what thou think'st fit.

Ay, that I will, said David, and to thee
Will give besides what thou shalt ask of me.
This said, the good Old Man He kindly kist,
And, with his Royal Blessing him dismiss't.

Then March't he on, attended very well,
By Judah, and one Half of Israel.
What Half, or Part, be it suppos'd to be,
Which was not from the late Rebellion free:
And therefore now would more Officious seem,
What they their shaken Credit might redeem.

But now again a fresh Contention rose
Between them, which of Friends soon made them Foes.

^{2 Sam.} ^{19.} These Men of *Isra'el* could not now contain
 Their Anger; but did to the King Complain
 Of *Judah*; that they *stole* from them the King:
 That *they alone* might him o'er *Jordan* bring.
 The *ground* of which they did not understand;
 And therefore did their *Reasons* now demand.

The Men of *Judah* briskly Answer'd thus.
 Because the King is *near of Kin* to us.
 More *brisk*, than *true*. *David*, indeed, was so;
 But not the *King*. Kings are of Kin, we know,
 To *all* their Subjects; and *alike* to all,
 That Faithful are to them, both *Great* and *Small*.
 Why, added *Judah*, do ye then Contend?
 We did our Duty, without selfish End.
 We neither *Eat* at the King's Charge, nor yet
 Receiv'd from *Him* a *Gift*, or *Benefit*.

But we (the Men of *Israel* reply'd)
 Have that to say which will the Cause decide;
 For we have *Ten* Parts in the King; while you
 Cannot pretend, at most, to more than *Two*.

Why then, since we the greater Number are,
Did ye *despise* us? and proceed so far,
As to bring back our Sov'reign Lord the King,
Without *Consulting* us; and thereby bring
Contempt upon us? Thus they *Braul* and *Chide* ;
And toss the *fiery Ball* from Side to Side.
But *Judah's* Words, in this *Contention*, fell
More hot and fierce, than those of *Israel*.

2 Sam.
19.

C H A P. II.

HOW needful 'tis hot *Anger* to suppress!
Nor suffer *Wrath* to rise into *Excess*!
yet Not to give way to *Passion*! Nor too high
resent an apprehended *Injury*!
Much less to let the *Tongue*, upon Debate,
break loose, in Words which may exasperate.
or Words oft times, like *Flint* on *Steel*, strike Fire,
you and thereby the *Contention* raise the higher.

2 Sam.
20.

^{2 Sam.} So have I seen what from a *Sparkle* came,
^{20.} Blown, by hot Breath into a furious *Flame*.

Thus, in the present *Contest*, it befell
 The Men of *Judah* and of *Israel*.
 The Men of *Isra'el* did Resent too high
 A slight Offence: *Judah* at them Let fly
 A *Thunde'ring Volly*, in such cutting Words,
 As wounded deeper than the sharpest Swords;
 And made the *Isra'elites* almost Repent,
 That e'er to wait upon the King they went.

This bei'ng observ'd by *Sheba*, *Bichri's Son*,
 A Benjamite, who, thither that Day run
 Among the rest: Not willing to let go
 So fit a time, his *factions Mind* to show,
 He blew a Trumpet; and each *Isra'elite*,
 To fresh *Rebellion*, did thus Invite.

No Part haye we in *David*: Nor possess
 We any Share now in the Son of *Jeſſ*.

Wherfo

Wherefore, O *Israel*, to your Tents betake
Your selves forthwith; and *Jesse's* Son forsake.

*2 Sam.
20.*

So spake this Man of *Belial*, and so did
The Men of *Isra'el*: strait away they slid
From *David*; and with nimble Paces run
After rebellious *Sheba*, *Bichri's* Son.

But *Judah* Clave intirely to their King:
And him in Honour safely Home did bring.

Being come Home, the first thing by him done,
Was to *shut up* those Concubines, his Son
Defiled had; to whom he did Allot
Ait Maintenance: but thenceforth us'd them not.

That done, he did *Amasa* to him Call
Whom he design'd to make his General)
And bid him All the Men of *Judah* raise,
And bring them thither to him, in three Days.
way *Amasa* went, But longer staid:
Although what hast he could, he therein made.

^{2 Sam.} The King, uneasie at *Amasa's Stay*
^{20.}

(As knowing, Danger rises from Delay)
Abishai to him call'd, and bid him take
 The Forces ready. After *Sheba* make
 With all the Speed he could ; lest he should get
 The fensed Towns, his Treason to abet.

Out March't *Abishai*, leading *Joab's Men*,
 The *Cherethites* and *Pelethites* : but when,
 Upon the Way, *Amasa* in did fall ;
 He led the Army on, as General.

Joab, not by the King expressly sent,
 Yet, loving Action, with his Soldiers went.
 And, not *Amasa* brooking (as indeed,
 He ne'er lik'd any, that should him succeed)
 He so the Matter order'd, that his *Sword*,
 In Marching, should, as of its own accord,
 Drop from the *Scabbard* : up he snatch't it, and
 Carelessly carr'd it *naked* in his Hand.

Amasa saw it: but suspected not,
That *Joab* therein had on him a Plot.
Nor, taking it to be an Accident,
He was, for his own Safety, less intent.
Joab advanc'd. And, under feigned show
Of Kindnes, ask't him, Brother, how dost do?
Then, by the Beard him taking, him he Buſſ'd:
And therewithal his Sword into him thrust.
But drop'd his Bowels: There *Amasa* lay,
Wallowing in his Blood, upon the Way.
So dy'd a great and valiant Man: so fell,
By Treachery, a Prince in Israel.

2 Sam.
20.

On *Joab*, with *Abishai*, went, in Quest
of *Sheba*; leaving One, to tell the Rest,
That He, who favour'd *Joab*, and who was
or *David*, after *Joab* on should pafs.
Which notwithstanding, as the Men drew nigh
the Place, where their slain General did ly;
They made an *Halt*: nor would a Step advance;
But gazing stood, like People in a Trance.

Which

^{2 Sam.} Which *Joab's* Man observing (as behoov'd)
^{20.}

Amasa's Corps, out of the Way, remov'd
Into a Field, and Cove'red it: Which done,
The People straitway after *Joab* run.

Sheba, mean while, through all the Tribes had pa
And to the City *Abel* came at last;
Having pick't up the *Berites*, in his Way;
Of his own Tribe, who meant with him to stay

To this strong Place *Joab* close Seige doth lay,
And on the Wall his *Batte'ring Rams* do play.
Sheba, within, resolves (but all in vain)
The Town 'gainst all Opposers to maintain.
The Seige grows hot; the *Engines* shake the Wall
The next Assault is like to make it fall.
Which if it do, The Soldiers strait rush in,
With Sword in Hand, and so the City win.
That done, They, in their Heat, the People slay Havi
And afterwards, They seize upon the Prey.

This well foreseen was, by a *City-Dame*,
Who, to prevent it, on the Bulwark came;
And cry'd to the *Beseigers*, Hear, O Hear:
And speak, I pray, to *Joab* to come near,
That I with him may speak. He straitway came
Not thinking much to *Parley* with a *Dame*
(ough though he was) She, his Attention won,
In *Antient Custom* urging, thus begun.

2 Sam.
20.

' In old Time they (said she) were wont to say,
At *Abel*, surely, they will Counsel Pray ;
And so the Matter ended. Thus she *Nipt*
him neatly. For that He, in haste, had slipt
the Law of * *Heraldry*; which did provide,
that *Peace* should first be offer'd, Fair Means try'd,
before a Seige was laid. Which had he done,
he needed not, this *hostile Course* have run.

**Deut.*
20. 15.

Having thus gently pinched him, because
he had not well observ'd the *Facial Laws*;
she told him, though her Citizens, and She,
Both *Faithful* were and *Peaceable*: yet He

Sought

^{25am.} Sought to destroy a City, known full well
^{20.} To be a *Mother* too, in *Israel*.

Then ask'd him, How he could the Seige advance
To swallow up the Lord's Inheritance.

This startled *Joab*. Far, far be't from me,
That I should *Swallow* or *Destroy*, cry'd he.
The Matter is not so. But ye Protect
A *Rebel* who King *David* doth Reject.
Sheba, the Son of *Bichri*, is his Name
(To you, and all true *Israelites*, a Shame)
Deliver him alone, and I, in pity
To you, will *Raise* my Seige, and *free* your City

Nay, said the Woman, sure, if that be all:
His *Head* shall be thrown to thee o'er the Wall
Then to her *Citizens* the Woman went,
And did to them so wisely represent
The *Cafe*, their Danger; which so close she pu
That *Sheba's* Head they forthwith off did Cut,
And o'er the Wall it unto *Joab* threw:
At sight whereof he strait a Trumpet blew,

which rais'd the Seige. All to their Tents Retire. ^{2 Sam.}
_{20.} The Womans Wisdom justly all admire.

C H A P. III.

THESE two *Rebellions* quelled, which of late
Gave such Disturbance to the *Civil State* ;
The Court new-modell'd was, *Removes* were made
Ministers, some *Old* aside were laid.
Only fierce *Joab* (who was now more *Bold*,
than *Welcom* to the King) his Place will hold.

A *Standing Army* David Muster'd then,
^{1 Cron.}
consisting of *Three Hundred Thousand Men*.
Which into *Twelve Brigades* divided were :
Answering to the *Twelve Months* of the Year.
Each Brigade were twice *Twelve Thousand*, and
One Thousand Officers did them Command.
These took their Turns, in times of Peace, to be
Month on Duty : and from thenceforth free,

Till

^{1Chron} Till that Month came again. Thus, once a ye
^{27.}

Each Brigade, did at Court, in Arms appear.
But All, in time of War, did ready stand,
On sound of Trumpet to obey Command.
These to the Field King *David* often drew,
His Enemies, on all sides, to subdue.

^{2Sam.} Four Fields he with the *Philistins* did Fight.

^{21.} To each of which they brought a Man of Might,
An *Anakim*, One of *Goliath's* Race;
Whom *David's* Warriours did not only Chase:
But *single-handed* did them singly Slay;
And, each time, bore the Victory away.

We read of British *Arthur*, and his Table
Of Warlike Knights (which some account a Fable)
But grant it true:) They never might compare
With *David's* Worthies, as their Deeds declare.

^{2Sam.} Which whoso lifts may, if he please to look,
^{23.}
^{1Chron} Read, at his leisure, in the Sacred Book.

^{21.}

Not less concerned was this pious King
d's Honour to promote; His Praise to Sing;
vance his Worship; Celebrate his Name;
d others, with like Godly Zeal, Inflame.

^{2 Sam.}
^{6.}

The Ark of God (which long before had been
Scorn and Scourge of the proud Philistin,
d with Abinadab had since remain'd;
no for his Entertaining it had gain'd
reat Blessings from the Lord) the Zealous King,
ith Israel and Judah, went to bring
to Jerusalem: but, through Mistake,
ring, the Sacred Law they plainly brake.

The Levites (Sons of Kohath) ought to bear
the Ark, upon their Shoulders. They, to spare
their Shoulders (learning the Philistine Art)
are back not to Clap the Ark into a Cart.

d's Ark they trust to stumbling Oxen, which
ight have the Ark o'erthrown into a Ditch.
e Oxen's stumbling caus'd the Ark to shake;
ell meaning Uzzah Care thereof doth take:

Puts

^{2 Sam.} Puts forth his Hand, and holds it, lest it fall.
6.

He is struck Dead: and that affrights them all.

The Lord's a Sov'reign Prince; and won't permit
That Man should vary from his Law a whit.

The Law was plain and easy; all must say,
The Fault upon the *Levites* only lay.

Displeas'd was *David* that through their defau't,
So great a Plague was on poor *Uzzah* brought.
And since the Breach by God himself was made,
David was also of the Lord afraid.

Lest of the *matter* he should disapprove,
As well as *manner*, e'en the *Ark's Remove*.

Not daring therefore at that time, to bring
The *Ark* unto *Jerusalem*, The King
Left it at *Obed-Edom's*; who was blest,
During the time the *Ark* with him did rest.

But three Months after, on a *better* Thought,
The *Ark* into *Jerusalem* was brought
In its due order; and was placed there
In a fair Tent, which *David* did prepare.

or he, before he would attempt again,
that he before attempted had in vain,
convening Priests and Levites, did declare,
none but the Levites ought the Ark to bear.

2 Sam.
6.

them therefore Charg'd, themselves to sanctify,
that to the Ark they safely might draw nigh,
and take it up: which had they done before;
they had not suffer'd what they now deplore.
Then on they go, and, as they go, Rejoyce,
singing on Instruments, with Sound of Voice.

all the world engaged

But none, of all the Company, more glad
pear'd to be, than David; who was clad
in Linnen Ephod, and did Leap and Dance
before the Ark, with joyful Countenance.

This Dress, and Gesture, his Wife, Michal, spies;
and looking on him with disdainful Eyes,
speak forth in Taunting Terms. For which she was
condemn'd, her Life in Barrenness to pass.
Punishment indeed! which her did bind
upon Bearing him, who was to save Mankind.

^{2 Sam.} The Ark thus brought, and with triumphant Grace
^{6.}

And due Devotion, settled in its Place ;
The pious King, who did before it dance,
Now studie'd how God's Honour to advance.

^{1 Chron} ^{23.} The Priests and Levites he dispos'd in Courses

(As he before had done His Martial Forces)
To each their sever'al Service he Assign'd,
Which they should Execute, with willing Mind
Some to Burnt Offerings and Sacrifices ;
With Rites belonging to those Exercises.
On Instruments of Musick some to play,
And Praise the Lord, upon each solemn Day.
To Prayer, some. Some, to Give Thanks. Some, B
The Lord, and his great Wonders to Express.

^{2 Sam.} Nor staid he here. His right Religious Mind,

^{7.} To Build an House for Isra'el's God, inclin'd.
A Sacred Temple He design'd to build,
Which with majestick Glory should be fill'd.

275

This Godly Purpose of his Royal Heart
The good King, to the *Prophet* did impart,
The Prophet, *Nathan*, of the Motion glad,
That he might Vigour to the King's Mind add ;
Too hastily, without Command) said, *Go,*
And what is in thine Heart to do, that do :
for God is with thee. The good Man, I wiss,
Through Strong Desire to have it done, did *Mis.*

2 Sam.
7.

For the same Night the Lord his *Prophet* bid
Go tell his Servant *David* (which he did)
That in thine Heart it was, an *House* to raiſe
To me, wherein to Celebrate my Praise,
take it well. But thou therefrom art freed.
Thy *Will*, by me, is taken for the *Deed*.
Thou shalt not Build the *House* ! for Thou hast led
Great Armies to the Field, much Blood hast shed.
But when thy Head is laid, A *peaceful King*,
Who of thy Seed, and from thy Loins shall spring,
Shall build my House ; which must be built in Peace.
He Builds for God, from War and Blood must cease.

2 Sam. 7.

Submissive David, with an humble Mind,
 Intirely to the Will of God resign'd ;
 In solemn Manner, did to God Express
 His hearty Thanks, and his great Name did Bleſſe
 And still, with Diligence, himself Apply'd,
Materials, for the *Building* to provide.
 Gold, Silver, Precious Stones, Brass, Iron, Wood
 Of divers Sorts : whatever seemed Good
 For *choiceſt Use*, He in abundance Stor'd,
 Won, from his Enemies, by Dint of Sword.
 To which he added so much of his own,
 As drew his *Princes* (when it once was known)
 Chief Fathers, Captains, Rulers, to express
 By their *free Offerings*, their *Thankfulness*.
 All which the King deliver'd to his Son,
 Young Solomon, with plain Direction,
 What he thereof should to each Use apply.
 Which keeping to, he could not Tread awry.

C H A P T E R

C H A P. IV.

During the Reign of *David*, there had been, ^{2 Sam.} _{21.} Three Years successiv'ly (no Ease between) A raging *Famine*; which did sore oppress The *Israelites*, and brought them to distress.

The long Duration of this pinching Dearth
Which Pin'd the People, and defac'd the Earth) Made *David*, of the Lord, the Cause Enquire,
Which against *Isra'el*, had provok'd his Ire.
The Answer was, It was for *Faithless Saul*,
And for his bloody House, this *Plague* did fall
Upon them: for as much as, in despite
Of publick Faith, He flew the *Gibeonite*.

How, when, where, why, he did this Fact commit,
Has not deliver'd in the *Sacred Writ*.

^{2 Sam.} Only we read, Saul did it in his Zeal
^{21.}

For Israel's and Judah's Common Weal.

Some think he did it, when to Death he put

^{* 25 Sam.} The Sorcerers, and Wizards* off did cut.

^{28.}

Though when that too was done, is not so clear
In Holy Writ, to be Ascertain'd here.

The Gibeonites were not of Israel,

Although They with the Israelites did dwell.

They, of the Amorite, a Remnant were,

A People, Israel's Sword was not to spare.

Which they fore-knowing, by a crafty Wile,

Good Joshua, and the Princes, did beguile.

These, feigning that Ambassadors they came

From a far Country, did a Story Frame;

That they so long had on their Journey been,

That their Provisions (which was plainly seen)

Corrupted were. Their Bread, which Hot from home

They said they brought, was Mouldy now become.

Wind

Wine-Bottles Old, Rent and bound up, they shew : ^{2 Sam.}
_{21.}

Which they affirm'd, when they came out were New.

Their Tatter'd Cloaths, and Clouted Shooes, did make
The Isra'elites give Heed to what they spake.

And, being by this Stratagem betray'd,

In unadvised League They with them made,

To Let them Live : And bound it with an Oath,

The Breach of which would unto divine Wrath

subject th' Infractors. For the Princes Sware

By the Lord God of Isra'el, who'll not spare

The Man, or People, that in vain shall take

This Sacred Name : but them Examples make.

Well near four Hundred Years this League was kept

unviolated, till all the Judges slept ;

And the good Prophet Samuel was gone

To Rest; and wicked Saul Usurp'd the Throne.

For after Saul, by God, Rejected was

His Reign must but for usurpation pass)

and probably it was not very long

before his End, he did this cursed Wrong.

<sup>23rd. For had it early been, it may be thought,
^{21.} The Punishment had *in his time* been brought.</sup>

When now King *David*, on Enquiry, knew
What 'twas, that on the Land this *Judgment* drew
He call'd the *Gibeonites*, and bid them say,
What they would have him do, to take away
The *Guilt* of Blood, And how he might Atone,
For the Injustice *Saul* to them had done :
That, *Satisfaction given*, They might bless
The Lord's Inheritance, with such Success,
That He, *Appeased*, might his heavy Hand
Remove, and Smile again upon the Land.
For *Justice* God regards. And therefore He,
How low soe'er the Wronged Party be,
Will *Righted* have, before he will remove
The *Rod*, wherewith he doth *Chastise* in Love.

The *Gibeonites* Reply'd, We neither seek
Saul's Gold or *Silver*; nor desire to Reek
Revenge upon his House: Nor is't our Will,
That, *for our sakes*, thou any Man should'st kill

In Israel. But this is what we Crave,
The only Thing, which we desire to have.
The Man who us so cruelly Anoy'd,
And who would us intirely have destroy'd,
Let Seven of his Sons, without delay
Deliver'd be to us, that them we may
Hang up, in Gibeah, unto the Lord.
So their Demand King David did Accord.

2 Sam.
21.

Small Choice He had, out of Saul's House, to take
ev'n Men, Atonement for Saul's Sin to make.

Mephibosheth, He had a special Care,
For Jonathan his Father's sake, to spare:
Having Regard to Friendship, and the Oath,*
Which long before had pass'd between them both.

*1 Sam.
20. 42.

Of all Saul's Sons, but Two were now alive.
Unhappy They, that they did him survive,
To undergo an Ignominio'us Death
For his Offence;) Of these Mephibosheth,
The Younger, was: Armoni was the other:
kill both Sons of Rizpah, their afflicted Mother.

Five

^{2 Sam.} Five Sons of *Merab*, to make up the Tale,
^{21.} He pitch't upon. *Merab* might well bewail
 Her double Loss. Of *David* first, and then
 Of her Five Sons: A set of proper Men.
 For had she Marrie'd *David* (which, of right,
 She should have done) She, without question might
 Have still enjoy'd her Sons: Her self have been
 A joyful *Mother*, and a topping *Queen*.

The Number thus made up, the King Commanded
 They should deliv'red be into the Hands
 Of the wrong'd *Gibeonites*. They, in a Word,
 Hang'd them up, Man by Man, before the Lord.

This needful Execution was done,
 When *Barley-Harvest* was but new begun;
 And the dead Bodies being to remain
 Unburied, till the Lord, by sending Rain
 (The want of which was the next Cause of *Dearth*)
 Should his Acceptance shew, and Bless the Earth
 Religious *Rizpah*, that she might defend
 Them from all Danger, on them did attend

uring the time, as well by Night as Day. 2 Sam.
21.

that neither *Bird*, nor *Beast*, might on them prey.
or which End, on the Rock, where they lay dead,
one a *Pavilion* did, of Sackcloth, spread.

Which pious Act of hers when *David* heard
(after the Lord Propitio'us had appear'd)
He took the *Bones* of *Saul*, which did remain
at *Jabesh Gilead* (where they long had lain)
and together with the *Bones* of *Jonathan*,
his Noble Friend (a brave and worthy Man)
and Gathe'ring up the *Bones* of these, who now
had Hanged been: He on them did bestow
Funeral; and did them all Interr
Kisb their Father's proper Sepulcher.
which done, according to the King's Command:
the Lord was pleas'd to Blefs again the Land.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

^{2 Sam.}
^{24.} WHEN now the Lord had his *Anointed* Bleſſed fit to

As well with *inward* Peace, as *outward* Refeſt

Having ſubdu'd his Enemies, and made

His Neighbours, round about him, all afraid

Him to Offend: So that he now could ſay

* *Psal.*
^{118.24} Unto his Friends, *This is the happy Day* *

The Lord hath made; Let us, with tuneful Voice,

And thankful Heart, in this his Day Rejoyce.

When to this *peaceful* State, the *happy* King
Arrived was, that he could sweetly Sing
Psalms of *Thanksgiving*, while his Fingers plaid
And on his Harp *Melodious* Musick made:
The *restleſs Adverſary* of Mankind
(Who Mischief always had to Man deſign'd)
Envy'ing the Happiness which now befel,
Under ſo good a King, poor *Israel*;

Did with a *Thought* his Royal Breast inspire,
Which quickly set both *Heart* and *Head* on Fire.
It kindled in him an *ambitious* Mind
To know his Strength, and strongly him inclin'd
To *Number* all his *People*, such as are
Fit to bear Arms, and Muster'd be for War.

2 Sam.
24.

To *Joab* therefore, as his General,
He gave Command to Go, and Number all
The People, fit for War, in eve'ry Tribe;
And, in a *Muster-Roll*, their Names describe:
That He might thereby know (vain Mind, alas!)
How Strong, in Military Force, he was.

The *Snare*, which *David* saw not, *Joab* saw;
And labour'd *David* from it to withdraw:
But all in vain. The King was fully bent
To have his *Will*: *Joab* about it went
Unwillingly; and, in some Ten Month's Time,
Returning, shew'd the King his *Strength*, & *Crime*.

For

^{2 Sam.} For he no sooner the Account gave in,
^{24.}

But David, Smitten in Himself, His Sin
Confessing, said, *I sinned greatly have*
In that which I have done. And now I Crave
Thy Pardon, Lord: and do most humbly Pray,
That Thou'l be p'leas'd to take my Sin away.
Ah! Sensible I am, that herein I
Have Err'd, and done exceeding foolishly.

Next Morning God, in high Displeasure, sent
His Prophet, to denounce a Punishment
(To David for his Sin. The Prophet goes,
And thus his Message doth to him disclose.

Thus said the Lord, Three Sorts of Punishment
I set before thee; and am fully Bent
One of them to inflict: but leave to thee
The Choice, which of them shall inflicted be.
Choose therefore one; which I may to thee do.
For thy Offence shall not unpunish'd go.

*^{1Chron.} Shall * Three Years more of Famine in thy Land
^{21. 12.} (Which Three Years hath already suffer'd) stan-

OR wilt Thou, for *Three Months* together, *Flee* ^{12 Sam.} _{24.}

Before thine Enemies, and *Chased* be? ^{Heb v. 12}

OR shall, throughout thy Land, the *Pestilence*

For *Three Days* rage, to punish thine Offence?

now advis'd, said *Gad*, think well what Word,

shall, from thee, Return unto the Lord.

Here the *Gradation* sinks, as it appears,

from *Months* to *Days*, and unto *Months* from *Years*.

Three Months of bloody *War*, 'tis likely, may

slay as many, as *Three Years* of *Famine*, slay. ^{It don't}

and *Three Days Pestilence* accounted are ^{it alsmiH}

equal to *Three Months* of devouring *War*. ^{it alsmiH}

Great was the Straight poor *David* now was in

! What but *Straights* attends presumptuous *Sin*!

Which of the Three to Choose, He's unprepar'd.

Choose was *Farour*: But the Choice was hard.

Famine the Land had felt too late before:

What too would first, and most, affect the Poor.

Himself

^{2 Sam.} Himself it would not Reach ; to whom, he knew

The Rod was chiefly, if not only, due.

Like Reason was of War. In Person He
Might be, for Three Months time, from Danger
Besides, if Isra'el should be beat, and fly
So long and oft : it might the Enemy
Embolden, of their Strength, or Cause, to boast
And to Blaspheme the Lord, the God of Hosts.

These therefore wav'd, the King resolv'd, at last
Himself into the Hand of God to Cast.
Into the Hand of God, said He, let's fall ;
And humbly unto him for Mercy call.
His Mercy's great. I, by Experience, know
He will, upon Repentance, Mercy show.
In Him I trust. To Him, distrest I fly :
And on his tender Mercies I rely.
But let me not into the Hands of Man
Be cast : for He will do the Worst he can.

The *Choice* thus made, the *Pestilence* is sent
throughout the Land; the *Angel* swiftly went,
Waving his flaming Sword, whereby there fell
Twenty Thousand Men in *Israel*,
three Days time. But when the *Angel* came
To shake his *Blade* against *Jerusalem*
The Royal City, the Imperial Seat,
The Cabinet of what was Choice and Great)
The mournful King, with *Isra'el's* Elders, Clad
In Sack-Cloth, with their Countenances sad,
At last on their Faces, at the dreadful Sight
Of that devouring Blade, stretch'd out, to smite
The People: And the trembling King thus pour'd
His Supplication forth before the Lord.

^{2 Sam.}
^{24.}

'Ah! Am not I the Man, that gave Command
The People should be Numb'red thro' the Land?
Tis even I, that did this Sin Commit.
O that I only, suffer might for it!
On me, and on my House, O Lord, I pray,
Be pleas'd, for what remains, thy Hand to lay!

T

But

^{2 Sam.} But not upon thy People in this City.
^{24.}

‘ Oh ! on these harmless Sheep, I pray have Pity ;
‘ And let not them be plagu’d for my Offence :
‘ Accept my Pray’r. Regard their Innocence.

This earnest Supplication Heav’n pierc’d,
And the Remainder of the Doom Revers’d.
The Lord, Repenting, to the Angel said,
It is enough. Now let thine Hand be staid.

The Angel stood, when this blest Word was give
By Ornan’s Threshing-Floor, twixt Earth & Heav’
And Ornan (or Araunah) when he spy’d
The Angel, ran, with his Four Sons, to hide.

But David, being by Gad instructed, went
To buy the Threshing-Floor, with full Intent
To rear an Altar, in that very Place
Unto the Lord ; and there to seek his Face.

Araunah, looking forth, and seeing the King
Come towa’rds him ; on the ground himself did flin

The Cause Enquiring, which him thither brought; ^{2 Sam.}
_{24.} Which, in so great a Prince, must great be thought.

My Bus'ness is, reply'd the King, to Buy
of thee thy *Threshing-Floor*, that thereon I
May Raise an *Altar* to the Lord, and see
if, by *Peace-Offe'rings*, He appeas'd will be.
That so, his *just* Displeasure bei'ng allay'd,
The *Plague*, inflicted on us, may be stay'd.

O, said Araunah, let my Lord the King
accept the Ground: Thou needest Nothing bring.

The Oxen, for *Burnt-Offe'rings*; and the Wheat,
or the *Meat-Offe'ring*, take too, I entreat.

The *Threshing Instruments* may serve the turn,
instead of *Wood*, the Offerings to Burn,
and mayst thou by the Lord accepted be
assure, as these are *freely* giv'n by me.

Nay, Hold, said David, Do not think that I
Begging came? I came indeed to buy:

^{2 Sam.} And buy I will ; and that too at full Price.

^{24.} What's not mine own I will not Sacrifice.

Nor will I that which did me Nothing Cost,
Pretend to Offer to the Lord of Hosts.

The Price then set, and paid, an Altar there
King David to the Lord his God did rear :
And thereon Offer'd to appease the Lord,
Burnt-Offe'rings and Peace-Offe'rings, and Implore
His gracious Pardon. And the Lord, who knew
That David's Heart was right, his Sorrow true,
Vouchsaf'd to Answer him by Fire, which came
From Heav'n, upon the Altar, in a Flame.
By which he shew'd, his Anger was appeas'd :
And He, with David's Sacrifice, was pleas'd.

Thus ceas'd the Plague, with Seve'nty Thousand fallen
By which so many fewer did remain
To serve the King. And tho' the Lord thought
To spare the Man, that did the Sin Commit.
Yet, in his Kingly State, in part he Dy'd ;
At least was wounded through his Peoples Side.

For Kings and Subjects are Cor-Relatives ;
The one must Die, unless the other Lives.

2 Sam.
24.

Herein however, Divine Providence
suited the Punishment to the Offence :
That since, of Numbers, David fain would boast,
He of his Number Seve'nty Thousand lost.

C H A P. VI.

A G E now, and the Expence of Blood in War, ^{1 Kings}
To Weakness had reduc'd the King so far :
That, though against the Cold they did him Arm
With store of Cloths, they scarce could keep him warm,
Wherefore they for a fair young Virgin sought,
Whom, having found, unto the King they brought.
Her Name *Abishag* was, A Shunamite,
Who on the King should wait, both Day and Night.
She stood at hand, to serve him, all the Day ;
And, when Night came, she in his Bosom lay :

King. Whereby her natu'ral Heat she did impart
 Unto the King ; which did refresh his Heart.
 Thus led she a Concubinary Life :
 Yet did the King not Know her, as a Wife.

His eldest Son, then living, was a Prince
 Of an aspiring Mind ; who, ever since
 The Death of Absalom, Himself did hold
Heir to the Crown : and thereupon grew bold.
 His Name was Adonijah ; which doth sound
A Ruling Lord : and such he would be found.
 A goodly Man, for Personage, was He :
 And from Correction had been always free.
 For the King's Lenity to him was such,
 He never had displeased Him, so much
 As but to say unto Him, O my Son,
What is the Cause, Thou so, or so hast done?

He long had cast his Eye upon the Throne,
 As Counting, if not Calling it, His own.
 And Reckon'd He sustain'd no little Wrong,
 In that his Father fate upon't so long.

But now, his Father's *Age*, and *feeble State*,
 Made him *Resolve*, He would no longer wait ;
 But take *Possession* of the Royal *Crown* :
 Ascend the *Throne*, and *Thrust* his Father *down*.

*1 Kings
I.*

In order thereunto, he did provide
Chari'ots and *Horsmen* (for both *Guard* and *Pride*)
 And *Fifty Men*, who should before him *Run*.
 Like as his Brother *Absalom* had done.

Then into the *Conspiracy* he drew
Joab, his Father's General ; who, he knew,
 Among the *Soldie'ry* great *Inte'rest* had ;
 And to his Cause, could *Strength* and *Credit* add.
Abiathar, the Priest, He also got
 To Joyn with him ; and *Consecrate his Plot*.

Both He and *Joab* had stood right before,
 When *Absalom* *Rebell'd* : and to Restore
 The King, they labour'd hard, unto his *Crown*.
 What pity 'twas they now *the Pail kick't down*.

I Kings *Joab*, indeed, some Colour might pretend
 For his *Defection*. He might Apprehend,
 (Not without Reason) since he lost his Place,
 He stood but *loosly* in the Royal Grace.

But for the *Priest*, No Cause, as yet, I see ;
 Which might, in his Excuse, alledged be :
 Unless it were what doth among such run,
 An Aptness to *Adore the Rising Sun*.
David Declin'd apace ; ready to *Set*.
 Young *Adonijah* ready up to *get*.

And now, the *Plot* bei'ng *Ripe*, the Time at hand And,
 Wherein he mean't All *Israel* to Command. And,
 He made a *Royal Feast*: fat Cattle slew,
 Both Sheep and Oxen. And he to it drew Unto
 His Brethren, the King's Sons (e'en eve'ry One There
 Of them, excepting only *Solomon*) The
 And with them *Joab* and *Abiathar*: Co
 And all the Men of *Judah*, though they were After
 The King's own Servants : and with them too mo And,
 Of the brave *Captains* of his Father's Host ; She,
 Who

Who, when the Wine their Spirits did inflame,
Should Adonijah, for their King, proclaim.^{1 Kings}

Just in the Nick, the Prophet, Nathan, got
An Inkling of this Execrable Plot:

And wisely weighing, how he might prevent
The dire Effects thereof, away he went
Unto Queen Bath-sheba; and her surpriz'd
With the Relation of it: then Advis'd
Her, to the King immediately to go,
And open, to the King, the Matter so,
That He the Danger deeply in may take;
And, to prevent it, due Provision make.

And, added he, whilst thou yet speaking art
Unto the King, I'll come, and take thy part.
Then Her instructing, How she should begin
The Matter; He went off: and she went in.

Come to the Presence of the King, she Bow'd
(After such Manner as was then allow'd)
And, being by the King Ask't, What she would?
She, in such Terms as these, her Bus'ness told.

Wh^t Thou

Kings ‘Thou didst, my Lord, unto thine Handmaid sware,

1.

- ‘ By the Almighty (who doth Witness bear)
- ‘ That, after thee, thy Servant *Solomon*
- ‘ Should Reign, and sit upon his Father’s Throne,
- ‘ Yet now, behold, doth *Adonijah* Reign.
- ‘ And he hath Oxen, and fat Cattle, slain
- ‘ In great abundance, and a Feast hath made:
- ‘ To which thy Sons, O King, are all *betray’d*,
- ‘ That they may *own his Title* (all but one,
- ‘ Who is left out, thy Servant *Solomon*)
- ‘ But, upon thee, my Lord O King, the Eyes
- ‘ Of *Isra’el* are; that Thou, before Thou dies,
- ‘ Should’st plainly tell them *Who*, when thou art gone
- ‘ Shall thee *succeed*, and sit upon thy Throne.
- ‘ Which, if to do, my Lord the King should fail,
- ‘ And *Adonijah’s Treason* should prevail:
- ‘ When Thou, my Lord, shalt with thy Fathers sleep,
- ‘ (At thought whereof I cannot choose but weep)
- ‘ It then shall come to pass, *Offenders We,*
- ‘ I and my Son, shall then reputed be,

While she yet spake, the Prophet *Nathan* came ^{1 Kings}
Into the *Anti-chamber*; and, his Name
Sent in, he did for quick Admittance sue:
And, being introduce't, the Queen withdrew.

Then to the King the Prophet (having paid
The usual *Reverence* in those Times made)
Thus spake; ' My Lord, O King, Dost thou ordain
That *Adonijah*, after thee, shall Reign?
' Or hast Thou said, When I to Rest am gone?
' I will that He shall sit upon my Throne?
' For He, this Day, hath made a Royal Feast,
And to it hath Invited many a Guest;
' All the King's Sons (Except Prince *Solomon*)
' Unto his Feast, at his Request, are gon.
' *Joab* too, and the *Captains* of the Host,
He doth Careß; not sparing any Cost.
' Nor is *Abiathar*, the *Priest*, the Least
Among his Guests; to Bleſſ the Traite'rrous Feast.
' All whom that he may richly Entertain,
He hath abundance of fat Cattle slain.

• They

Kings. They Eat, Drink, Sing, loud Acclamations give;

‘ Crying, Long may King Adonijah live.

‘ But me thy Servant, and thy better Son

‘ (Best of thy Sons) the brave Prince Solomon,

‘ He hath not Call’d, Nor Zadok, the good Priest,

‘ Nor yet Benajah, to his treacherous Feast.

‘ Is this thing, by my Lord’s Appointment done,

‘ And thou hast not it to thy Servant shown?

‘ Or hath aspiring Adonijah chose

‘ This time, to seize the Crown, and thee Depose?

He stopt. But what had been already said,
 On the King’s Mind a deep Impression made.
 He had not yet the sad Effects forgot,
 Of his Son Absalom’s disloyal Plot ;
 How hard it with him went ; what Dangers He
 Was in ; How he was fain for’s Life to flee :
 Which now (so weak he was) He could not do
 But must, whate’er befell him, undergo.
 He therefore, to this Sore, resolv’d to apply
 A speedy, and effectual Remedy.

Go, call me *Bath-sheba*, said He, The Dame, ^{1 Kings}
 Upon the Call, incontinently came,
 And stood before him (*Nathan* out was gone
 Leaving the King and *Bath-sheba* alone,) ¹⁰¹
 To whom the King thus Spake (and, with an *Oath*
 Did what he spake Confirm, between them both.)

‘ As the Lord lives, who me from all Distress
 ‘ (Which I with humble Heart, to Him Confess)
 ‘ Redeemed hath; E’en as to thee before,
 ‘ By the Lord God of *Israel* I swore,
 ‘ Assuring thee that *Solomon*, thy Son,
 ‘ Should me succeed, and sit upon my Throne:
 ‘ That will I certainly Perform this Day;
 ‘ Thine Eye shall see it done, without delay.

The *Queen*, most humble Reve’rence having made,
 Only, *Long live my Lord King David*, said.
 By which, we may suppose, she wish’d that He
 Might still Reign on; and be from Troubles free.

But

Kings But He, upon the Matter more intent,
 For *Zadok, Nathan* and *Benayah* sent.
 To whom he gave in Charge, that they should strait
 Take of his Servants, both for Strength and State,
 Sufficient Numbers; and should Cause his Son
 (*The Lord's Belov'd, Jedidiah*) *Solomon*,
 On the King's Mule, in Royal Pomp, to ride
 (*The Priest and Prophet* walking by his Side,
 With the King's Guards before him and Behind,
 And all the People, that were well-inclin'd)
 Until they came to *Gihon*, a small Stream,
 Which did the Court part from *Jerusalem*.
 Let *Zadok* there, and *Nathan*, Him Anoint
King over *Israel*: for *Him* I appoint,
 Said *David*, in my stead, upon my *Throne*
 To sit; and henceforth take it for *his own*.

And when he is Anointed, forthwith sound
 The Trumpet, and let all the People round,
 With joyful Acclamations, Call upon
 The Lord, and say, *God save King Solomon.*

The

Then bring him up, that He, as I ordain,
May over Israel and Judah Reign.
1 Kings 1.

Amen, Reply'd Benayah: and, O may
The Lord God of my Lord so also say.
As with my Lord the King, the Lord hath been,
So may he too with Solomon be seen:
And may his Throne transcend thy Throne as far,
As other Thrones to thine Inferior are,

This said, Away they All together go,
Adok the Priest, Nathan the Prophet too;
Captain Benayah, with the King's Life-Guard,
The Cherethites and Pelethites, prepar'd
The King's Command to Execute: and Those
To slay, who should them in the Work oppose.

The Priest, out of the Tabernacle, took
An Horn of Oyl; and down to Gibon-Brook
They lead Prince Solomon, in Royal State:
Priest, Prophet, People gladly on him wait.

Come

Kings Come to the Place, the Priest upon his Head,
From out his Horn, the Sacred Oyl did shed.
The Trumpet then was blown, and thereupon
The People Cry'd, God save King Solomon.
Then were all Throats distended; and the sound
Of Trumpets was, by that of Voices, drown'd.
Obstrep'rōus Noises through the Air did Break;
And their transporting Joys did loudly speak.
Such Acclamations made! Such Shouts were giv'n!
As seem'd to Rend the Earth, and Pierce the Heav'.

C H A P. VII.

BY this time Adonijah, and the Rest
Who had been Entertained at his Feast,
Having done Eating, ready were to bring
Him forth in publick, to Proclaim him King;
Buoy'd up with Confidence of the Success,
Having a Priest with them, the Work to Bleſſ

And the old Gene'ral, Joab, at their Head,
The Military Forces up to lead.

1 Kings
1.

When, on a suddain, the rebounding Cries,
Of Solomon's Attendance, them surprize.

They heard, and started: and the more they Hear,
The more they're with *Amazement* struck, and *Fear*.

What, said old Joab (when he heard the Sound
Of Trumpets, & the Noise, which that Noise drown'd)

May we suppose the Cause of this to be?

The City in an *Uproar* seems to me.

While he yet spake, Came One unto the Door
Who had been proling out, some time before)
nathan (who was Son unto the *Priest*
biathar, of *Traytors* not the *least*)
Who having been abroad upon the *Scout*,
had seen the Work the City was about.

Him *Adonijah* seeing, said Come in,
and tell us what the Matter is. Begin:
For thou a Man of noted Valour art,
And usu'ally Good Tidings dost impart

U

Say,

Kings Say, What's the Bus'ness? ' Ah, alas! said He,

' My Tidings now will not be Good to thee,

' For verily, Our Lord King David now

' Hath Solomon made King. Then told him How

Where and by Whom, it managed had been;

And what, relating to't, he 'had Heard or seen.

Adding, the People's Joy, for their New King,

They so Exprest, as made the City Ring.

And that the Noise is, which ye now have heard:

The Cause of which is justly to be fear'd.

For Solomon now on the Throne doth sit;

And doth to eve'ry one what he thinks fit.

At this Report the Guests were all afraid,
And *slipt away*: not one amongst them staid
With Adonijah. He, as well he might,
Deserted thus, fled, in a grievous Fright,
Unto the Altar: of its Horns Caught hold,
Hoping that Sacred Place now (as of old
It had to others done) might him protect,
At least till he might other Means project.

His *Pardon* to obtain. This being laid
Before King *Solomon*; He thereon said,
If He Himself a worthy Man will shew,
There shall, for this, no Punishment ensue.
But if hereafter, He again shall try
Ill *Practices* against me, He shall die.

1 Kings
1.

Then *Solomon* some sending, who should bring
Him, from the Altar, down unto the King;
He came, and to the King himself did *Bow*,
Which shew'd, he did his *Sovereignty* allow.
The King dismissing him, this only said,
Go to thy House: Do well; and be'n't afraid.

This gentle Dealing the old King approv'd,
No doubt; who *Adonijah* greatly lov'd:
And therefore, probably, was glad to see,
In his *Successor*, so much *Lenity*.
Which made him (when his *Courtiers* came, to Wait
Upon him, and, with Joy, Congratulate
This great Delive'rance) bow himself, and say,
Blest be the Lord, e'en *Isra'el's* God, this Day;

U 2

‘ Who,

1 Kings Who, me yet living, hath vouchsafed One

‘ Of mine own Sons, to sit upon my Throne.
The Sense whereof did make this Godly King,
Unto the Lord, his *Nunc dimittis* sing.

2 Kings And now, the Days of *David* drawing nigh,

Wherein, by Course of Nature, he should dy:
He of King *Solomon* his Leave did take;
And unto him he thus, at Parting, spake.

‘ *I go the Way of all the Earth* (which is,
Of Dying, a well known *Periphrasis*)

‘ *Be therefore strong, and shew thy self a Man,*
‘ That Thou before the Lord thy God mayst stand
And keep his *Charge* sincerely, all thy Days,
‘ To walk uprightly in his Sacred Ways;
‘ To keep his *Statutes*; His *Commands* to do;
‘ *Judgments* Observe, and *Testimonies* too.
‘ That in whate’er thine Hand doth undertake,
‘ Thou mayst the Lord to thee *Propitious* make

‘ The

' Then will the Lord Confirm his Word, which He ^{1 Kings}
_{2.}
' Most graciously did speak concerning me :
' When He, some Years ago, was pleas'd to say * ^{*2 Sam:}
_{7. 12.}
' If thine shall take good heed unto their Way,
With all their Heart, and all their Soul to Walk
In Truth before me (and not *Justice* baulk)
Then shalt thou never want a Godly Son,
To sit upon the Israelitish Throne.

This said, He *Solomon* Instruction gave
How He, hereafter, should himself Behave
To some, who had from their *Allegiance* swerv'd :
And Others, who of him had well deserv'd.
Then, having Liv'd *Seventy* Years, and Reign'd
Forty of them ; and lasting Glory gain'd :
He with his Fathers *slept*, and was interr'd
In his own *City*, which he most preferr'd ;
And which, to honour him, thenceforth became,
The *Royal Sepulcher* for Men of Fame.

And

And now my *Muse*, might she so high presume,
Would write this *Epitaph* upon his *Tomb*.

E P I T A P H.

HERE lies King David, whose sharp Sword did quell
The fiercest Enemies of Israel.

Here the Sweet Singer lies, whose various State,
The Psalms by him Composed, do relate.

Here lies the Man, who (for the greatest part)
Did walk according to the Lord's own Heart.

His Body in the Grave below doth Rest:
His Spirit lives above, among the Blest.

T H E E N D.



ERRATA.

PAGE 12. line 10. read against. p. 51, to 56. Marg. r. 1 Sam. 20. p. 90. l. 17. f.
without, r. with what. p. 93. l. 7. r. Resolve. p. 106. l. 12. f. own, r. whole. p. 18
l. 1, & 186. l. 5. r. Princess. p. 188. l. 11. dele the Comm. p. 219. l. 3. r. Gil
p. 222. l. 16. r. decide. p. 267. l. 13. Marg. r. Deut. 20. 10.

ell



7. 18
Gila